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Chair: Ms. Miculescu ..... (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 50: Effects of atomic radiation (A/66/46, A/66/378, A/66/524; A/C.4/66/8)

1. **Mr. Weiss** (Germany), Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, accompanying his statement with a computerized slide presentation, introduced the report of the Scientific committee on its fifty-eighth session (A/66/46). Following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on 11 March 2011, the Scientific Committee had offered to support Japanese scientists' efforts to assess radiation doses and radiation-related health effects. It planned to conduct a full assessment of radiation levels and effects, issuing a preliminary document in 2012 and a final assessment in the second quarter of 2013, with additional follow-up activities in subsequent years. All activities would be funded by voluntary in-kind contributions from Member States and international organizations, with recourse to the trust fund if necessary. Four expert groups would be established to focus on: data compilation and quality assurance; radionuclide releases and dispersion; dose and risk assessment; and worker doses and health effects.

2. In 2011, which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, the Scientific Committee had published its fourth assessment of health effects due to radiation from that event. The assessment confirmed that the previous conclusions, based on much more limited data, were still valid: 28 deaths from over exposure and 134 cases of radiation sickness in 1986; increased incidence of leukaemia and cataracts; and, as of 2008, 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer among those exposed to the accident as young children. The average 20-year doses received in the Chernobyl area were of the order of magnitude of a single computerized tomography (CT) scan, with maximum values of tens of CT scans. There was no consistent evidence for any other radiation effects.

3. The previous year's resolution had requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly regarding the effects of atomic radiation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. However, such a request should have been addressed to the Scientific Committee, which had competence in those matters. That error should be corrected in order to avoid any impact on the mandate of the Scientific Committee.

4. Turning to the programme of work, he said that the report on the attribution of health effects to exposure to ionizing radiation would be published in 2012. Another report would consider uncertainties in risk estimates for cancer due to exposure to ionizing radiation. Dose levels above a certain magnitude resulted in an increased risk for cancer, but in view of the very high general incidence of cancer and high background level variability, the uncertainties of risk assessment were greater at lower levels. The report on the biological effects of selected internal emitters considered internal exposure from contaminated air and food; it found that the internal dose was not more dangerous than the external dose.

5. The Scientific Committee was assessing worldwide data on discharges from nuclear plants and other sources and was developing a methodology for estimating human exposure to apply to national data. Environmental exposure levels due to releases from nuclear power plants were well known, but not those due to releases from coal and gas plants, which also accumulated over a lifetime. Additional reports would focus on radiation risks and effects on children; the epidemiology of low dose rate radiation risks; and mechanisms of radiation actions at low doses.

6. Administrative issues yet to be resolved included the streamlining of procedures to ensure timely publication of scientific reports, the updating of data collection methods and improvement of public information work. Member States were encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund to cover unforeseen activities such as those arising in connection with the nuclear accident in Japan.

7. The Scientific Committee had 21 members, but over 120 scientists attended its annual sessions. The membership issue should be resolved in 2011 to ensure the efficiency and quality of the Scientific Committee's work. At the request of the General Assembly, the Scientific Committee had developed criteria and indicators to decide on membership and had expressed the view that the maximum number of members should remain about the same as the current level. Any major increase could compromise quality, effectiveness and efficiency. The membership issue distracted the Scientific Committee from its substantive work, and there was concern about politicization.

8. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the Scientific Committee), accompanying his statement with a

computerized slide presentation, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of atomic radiation in the Marshall Islands (A/66/378). The report was based on three main sources of information: the Scientific Committee's own reports on those issues, which were listed in annex I to the report; a major international assessment of the radiological conditions in Bikini Atoll coordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and relevant data in the scientific literature, with many of the key references listed in annex II to the report. The Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations had written to the Secretary-General to request that the report cover not only the scientific effects of atomic radiation but a range of matters, including social, cultural, developmental aspects related to testing, remediation options, issues relating to the involvement of the United Nations, including the Trusteeship Council, and future challenges and issues relating to such effects. Those concerns, although valid, went beyond the limited scientific scope of the report requested and the Secretary-General had indicated that the Organization stood ready to respond to any future instruction from the General Assembly on that matter. If a more comprehensive report on the effects of atomic radiation was requested, then the Scientific Committee could produce it.

9. The report of the Secretary-General on membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the financial implications of increased membership (A/66/524) described the evolution of the membership by regional group and proposed objective criteria and indicators for any future changes. As for the financial implications, the report set out the estimated component costs for each additional member State, including travel to the annual sessions, servicing costs, the additional workload for the secretariat and additional services for extending the time for discussions. The figures might seem low in absolute terms, but were not so in the context of the allocated budget. As membership issues were detracting from the substantive work of the Scientific Committee, it would be helpful if the Fourth Committee could reach a decision on the membership issue. Clearly, any changes should enhance the effectiveness of the Scientific Committee's substantive work, while maintaining scientific authority and independence of judgement and respecting the desire for equitable geographic distribution. The General Assembly might consider adopting a two-phase approach: first, a decision on the maximum size of the Committee and on the basis for future changes in membership; and second, a decision regarding the six applicant countries that had expressed their desire to become members since 2007.

10. **Mr. Toba** (Brazil), referring to paragraph 9 of document A/66/378, wondered whether the Secretary-General could request other United Nations agencies to contribute information on social, economic, environmental and other issues relating to radiation in the Marshall Islands. Noting that the Scientific Committee had only two African States as members, he also asked whether travel expenses were paid for representatives from developing countries or for all members of the Committee and whether the trust fund could bear any of the costs of an expansion. It would be helpful to receive more information on the situation of the trust fund.

11. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the Scientific Committee) said that the Secretary-General's statement that the Organization stood ready to respond to any to any future instruction from the Assembly did not imply that a major study could be undertaken without any additional funding, but an effort could certainly be made to engage with other agencies and to coordinate some action.

12. Travel expenses, without a subsistence allowance, was provided for all 21 heads of delegation, but not for other representatives. The trust fund had been established to accelerate the work of the Scientific Committee, but it might be possible to change the arrangements and make a specific request for trust fund contributions to cover travel costs. However, that would not constitute a predictable source of funding.

13. **Mr. Vidal** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the State party in the process of accession, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the associated States, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, said that he supported the request of the Government of the Marshall Islands that the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of atomic radiation should be expanded to include other issues. He also supported United Nations efforts to evaluate the consequences of nuclear tests and the effects of atomic radiation on the health of citizens and the environment in that State.

14. The Scientific Committee performed essential work in evaluating research on nuclear technologies, including medical applications, and a solution should be found to the current budgetary and administrative crisis. The trust fund administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was chronically short of funds and it would be useful to receive information on the status of the Fund over the last five years.

15. Any changes to the membership of the Scientific Committee should not affect the established members, who had demonstrated their commitment over decades of participation. The financing arrangements should be strengthened as a necessary and prior condition for membership expansion. Scientists representing Member States of the five regional groups of the United Nations should participate in the deliberations of the Scientific Committee and its Bureau on the basis of their scientific capacity and suitability and equitable geographical distribution.

16. The 25-year anniversaries of the tragedy of Chernobyl in 2012 and of Goiania in 2017, as well as the events that had occurred in Fukushima, were reminders of the need for caution and the importance of disseminating the available scientific data as broadly as possible. In accordance with Principle No. 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, all concerned citizens should have access to environmental information held by public authorities and access to judicial and administrative proceedings.

17. **Mr. Sorreta** (Philippines) said that his delegation commended the early and prompt response of the Scientific Committee to the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi facility. Other organizations, such as IAEA, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Health Organization (WHO), were also making important contributions. An independent assessment by the Scientific Committee would provide an authoritative reference for crafting policies to prevent and manage the effects of nuclear disasters.

18. The Philippines called on States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to undertake the actions to increase nuclear safety and security set out in the Final Outcome Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. There was a need for capacity-building in nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation at the national and regional levels. His country also supported regional cooperation to share information and knowledge in the area of nuclear safety, and welcomed the establishment of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices.

19. IAEA played a central role in promoting international cooperation and coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety. In that regard, the Philippines supported the implementation of the Plan of Action based on the recommendations of the IAEA Ministerial Level Conference on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna in June 2011. IAEA should continue to provide assistance through its technical cooperation programme to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies. The Agency should also continue to conduct education and training programmes.

20. A review of the global framework for emergency preparedness and response should include the updating of a number of provisions of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. As nuclear power would continue to be used for the foreseeable future, States should apply the highest standards of safety and security and the international community should be prepared to minimize the damage of any future incident and to assist the victims.

21. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his delegation had examined the report of the Secretary-General regarding membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee and the financial implications of increased membership (A/66/524). His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Scientific Committee and its secretariat. However, the recommendations with regard to criteria for membership seemed somewhat politicized and could encourage a form of discrimination incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, there was no universally accepted review mechanism.

22. His country had made progress in the use of nuclear radiation for medical, veterinary and educational purposes. The Sudan was cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and now had a five-megawatt nuclear research facility

which was used for medicine, industry, desalinization and training.

23. **Mr. Zhao** Xinli (China) said that his delegation welcomed the increase in human resources assigned to the Scientific Committee's secretariat. Nuclear energy, which was environmentally friendly, adaptable to climate change and capable of supporting sustainable development, had become a pillar of the energy supply of many developed countries. The Fukushima nuclear accident had focused the world's attention once again on the importance of nuclear and radiation safety, which should be strengthened at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle: from exploration, processing, transportation and storage of nuclear fuel, to the operation and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, and radioactive waste disposal.

24. As the demand for nuclear technology and the use of man-made radiation sources in industry, agriculture, medicine and scientific research were growing, it was important to maximize the benefits of atomic radiation, while minimizing its harm. The United Nations should play a broader role and encourage the international community to work in a number of areas, including the fulfilment of radiation safety responsibilities. States using nuclear technologies, especially those with advanced nuclear energy technologies, should offer technological guarantees for measuring and monitoring atomic radiation, ensuring safety and security against atomic radiation, treating victims in a timely and effective manner and disposing safely of atomic radioactive waste.

25. Radiation safety should be enhanced by formulating and improving standards for radiation measurement, radiation safety, disposal of radiation sources and protection. There was also a need to strengthen international cooperation in responding to nuclear incidents. States in which nuclear accidents occurred should provide comprehensive information as early as possible to the international community and to those countries that might be affected. The international community should strengthen its cooperation in evaluating the consequences of nuclear accidents so as to minimize transboundary radiation.

26. Efforts were needed to promote research and development for safer nuclear technology. Nuclear energy, radiological diagnosis and treatment, flaw detection and other nuclear technologies were unique and benefited mankind. States should increase their research and development for advanced nuclear and radiation safety technologies and work together to improve nuclear and radiation safety.

27. Effective dissemination of scientific knowledge to the general public was important, as the widening application of nuclear technology brought more people into contact with radiation sources. Such dissemination could help prevent radiation accidents, prepare people to take protective measures and alleviate the effect of radiation in the case of accidents; it could also help to dispel unnecessary fear and panic.

28. The scope of studies on the effects of atomic radiation should be expanded. The impacts of radiation affected people psychologically as well as physically and were a huge drain on public resources. Further studies on the psychological effects of radiation and its impact on public resources were needed.

29. In the immediate aftermath of the Fukushima accident, the Chinese Government had launched the National Nuclear Contingency Mechanism to monitor developments and take action. Stepping up radiation monitoring and publicizing authoritative information to allay public anxiety, his Government had also organized a comprehensive safety inspection of all nuclear facilities in China, reinforced safety regulations at all nuclear facilities in operation, conducted advanced safety assessments of all nuclear power plants under construction and had suspended the review and approval of new nuclear power plant projects until a revised nuclear safety plan could be adopted. His Government had also offered to assist the Japanese Government with radiation monitoring and medical care and Chinese experts had engaged with their counterparts from Japan and other countries regarding the accident.

30. China had supported the safe development of nuclear energy technology by participating in the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and by formulating appropriate national laws, regulations and technical standards. The Government was also enhancing its management and regulation capacity in the area of radiation safety. China would continue to work with the international community to ensure that nuclear technology benefited mankind and to protect mankind from radiological harm.

31. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), commending the Scientific Committee for the

competent and objective manner in which it discharged its duties, called for greater efforts to promote awareness of the harmful effects of atomic radiation on health and the environment. He said that his Government advocated the use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes and viewed nuclear energy as a resource to be deployed for further development and prosperity, but was concerned about the efforts to restrict developing countries' access to nuclear technologies under the guise of applying verification and non-proliferation measures.

32. The Syrian Arab Republic was at the forefront of States calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region. Indeed, it had submitted a draft resolution on the subject to the Security Council and had acceded to various international treaties on nuclear disarmament. By contrast, Israel maintained a stock of nuclear weapons yet was not subject to any international monitoring, had not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and refused to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA comprehensive safeguards, thereby posing a threat to regional security and undermining the credibility of international disarmament efforts.

33. The great east Japan earthquake of March 2011 had shown yet again that disasters could occur at any nuclear facility anywhere in the world. His delegation was deeply concerned at the potential for a major disaster posed by the existence of Israeli nuclear facilities in the region without the imposition of any controls. Indeed, as one of the designers of Israel's nuclear programme had acknowledged, the age of the facilities at Dimona left them vulnerable to problems, making them a virtual time bomb threatening the entire region. He urged the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA monitoring and eliminate its nuclear weapons. Israel had buried nuclear waste in the occupied Syrian Golan but the international community had remained silent on the matter, thereby failing to live up to its own calls for nuclear non-proliferation. Lastly, he emphasized the need for greater international cooperation to draw attention to the dangerous effects of atomic radiation.

34. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) said that his Government had reactivated the Radiation Protection Centre, the executive arm of the Radiation Prevention Authority, whose role was to develop environmental policies and programmes on atomic radiation and track their implementation. It also issued permits for the movement of radioactive materials, monitored environmental radiation levels and issued clearance certificates for imported goods for human consumption and goods for export. The Iraqi Radioactive Source Regulatory Authority, responsible for public health and safety during medical and agricultural use of materials with low levels of radioactivity, had prepared a national emergency plan for incidents involving radioactivity, and exchanged information with the International Atomic Energy Authority and other relevant international organizations. His delegation called on United Nations institutions and agencies to contribute to the Scientific Committee's valuable work by providing more information on radiation levels and their effects.

35. **Mr. Tsymbaliuk** (Ukraine) said that a responsible and holistic approach to the peaceful use of nuclear energy was the only way to ensure the future safety of the world. In commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Government of Ukraine had organized the Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, one of the outcomes of which had been the participants' unanimous recognition of the need to give priority to adequate levels of nuclear safety at every stage of nuclear energy production. He thanked the members and secretariat of the Committee for their participation in the Summit and also in the international scientific conference "Twenty-five Years after the Chernobyl Accident. Safety for the Future". He also expressed appreciation for the advance publication of the 2008 assessment of Chernobyl to make it available before the twenty-fifth anniversary.

36. The Chernobyl accident had triggered not only a revision of international nuclear safety standards, but also the creation of numerous international instruments to ensure both the highest level of nuclear safety worldwide and a related system of emergency preparedness and response. The Committee's decision to make a full assessment of the Fukushima accident was a welcome one, and data collection and compilation should be started as soon as possible.

37. His delegation was pleased to have contributed information to the Committee's publications and supported the proposal for the Committee's future programme of work, noting that its workload would expand as the use of radiation in daily life increase. It

was paradoxical that the Committee's work on Chernobyl accident had been done without Ukraine's participation as a member and he hoped that the General Assembly would approve its full membership, as envisaged in resolution 63/89.

38. **Mr. Javadekar** (India) welcomed the Committee's proposals for a scientific report on the radiological consequences of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima power plant in Japan. While the radiological consequences might not be comparable to those of the Chernobyl accident, it was important to create a multidisciplinary framework for data collection and analysis. However, a shortage of trained personnel made it a demanding task to monitor the radioactive contamination in the wake of the accident.

39. India appreciated the Committee's efforts to prepare documents on the ability to attribute health effects to exposure to ionizing radiation and on uncertainties in risk estimates for cancer due to exposure to ionizing radiation. As the Committee had accepted in its report to the previous session of the General Assembly that there was no epidemiological or experimental evidence of increased incidence of cancer for a dose of 100 mSv, it was important to revisit the linear no-threshold concept used in stipulating radiation exposure limits or workers and the general public.

40. He commended the Committee for its work on scientific annexes that addressed the methodology for estimating human exposures due to discharges, the biological effects of selected internal emitters and exposure form different options for electricity generation. As an emerging major user of nuclear power, India considered its citizens' safety to be a top priority. Any information issued by the Committee should be in a form that would not generate fear among the general public.

41. The plants to prepare a scientific annex on epidemiology relating to low-dose environmental sources were laudable, and he welcomed the fact that the Committee would take account of published work from both India and China. While the Committee's work was outstanding and the request for its enlargement understandable, financial and logistical considerations dictated that its membership should not exceed a practical limit.

42. **Mr. Hashmi** (Pakistan) said that his country had participated in the previous four sessions of the Scientific Committee as an observer, although it had over 50 years of experience in operating radiation facilities. It had contributed to the Scientific Committee's global survey of medical radiation usage and exposures as well as to various international studies on dietary and environmental impacts of radiation. Pakistan was also conducting ongoing studies on the assessment of radiation doses to patients and on naturally occurring radioactive minerals.

43. As the use of radiation sources in everyday life was expanding, the work of the Scientific Committee would increase, and its six observer States should therefore be made full members, a process initiated by General Assembly resolution 61/109. The budget for the 2010-2011 biennium had already covered a major portion of the financial implications and his delegation was willing to work with the Committee in further exploring ideas for addressing the remaining minor portion.

44. **Mr. Rahmonov** (Tajikistan) commended the Secretary-General for convening the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security in September 2011. Tajikistan had inherited numerous uranium mines, mine dumps and uranium tailing ponds from the Soviet period. Environmentally hazardous facilities in need of restructuring and decommissioning were located close to human settlements, posing a serious threat to the environment and the population. His Government had established a legal framework for nuclear and radiation safety and security to ensure the safe management and rehabilitation of areas contaminated by uranium mining and related activities. The Nuclear Radiation Safety Agency was the State regulatory authority and an annual amount was allocated for preparedness activities.

45. Tajikistan recognized the central role of IAEA in strengthening nuclear safety and security and the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations, in cooperation with IAEA, to provide environmental and health monitoring in Tajikistan. Several projects had been implemented, but many problems remained unresolved. He encouraged States and international organizations with the relevant expertise to provide technical assistance and share their experience in management and rehabilitation of contaminated sites and territories.

46. The Fukushima accident had affected public confidence in nuclear power and IAEA had an important role to play in further improving the nuclear safety regime. Some States had decided not to use, to phase out or to reconsider the use of nuclear power. Efficient use of renewable energy resources was increasingly important. Tajikistan had enormous hydropower potential which could help to reduce detrimental atmospheric emissions as well as to remedy the energy shortage in his country and in the region.

47. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan) said that, in the light of the tragic nuclear accident caused by the massive earthquake and tsunami earlier that year, his country recognized all the more the critical role played by the Scientific Committee. He welcomed the international community's commitment to strengthening nuclear safety, as reaffirmed at the United Nations high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security in September 2011. The Secretary-General, in his closing statement at that meeting, had asked the General Assembly to provide the Scientific Committee with the necessary resources to accomplish its task. In view of the importance of ensuring the safety and security of human beings and the environment, it was essential that the Scientific Committee be given sufficient resources to continue its authoritative study of the effects of radiation. The proactive use of objective scientific knowledge could inform the public and thus free people from unnecessary anxiety, while preventing the spread of harmful and groundless rumours about radiation.

48. **Mr. Christopher** (Marshall Islands) said that his country, during its status as a United Nations Trust Territory, had been the site of 67 large-scale nuclear tests conducted by the Administering Authority, the United States. During that period, his country's petitions to halt the testing had resulted in two Trusteeship resolutions that authorized further testing while providing assurances to the people of the Marshall Islands. Despite the many subsequent actions taken to address those events, significant challenges remained. The Marshall Islands welcomed the support of the Pacific Island Forum for addressing that issue at the United Nations, as expressed in the Forum Leaders Communiqué issued in September 2011. It also welcomed the 2011 joint statement of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and the Secretary-General, which referred to cooperation to address the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

49. In 2010, the Secretary-General had been requested to report on the effects of atomic radiation in the Marshall Islands. Appropriate engagement at the United Nations could help the Marshall Islands to move forward in understanding the past, bringing closure to a sad chapter in history, and to understand how the international community could assist in addressing future remediation and other challenges. Attention should be drawn to the body of scientific work that assessed the consequences of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. He looked forward to continued positive and productive discussion with key bilateral partners in the context of United Nations engagement.

50. **Mr. Berger** (Germany) said that work of the Scientific Committee played a crucial role in improving international scientific understanding of levels of exposure to ionizing radiation and its health and environmental effects. The accident in Fukushima in March had highlighted the importance of that work as the Scientific Committee had undertaken the additional task of supporting Japanese efforts to deal with the consequences of the accident, a reaction that was fully in line with the priorities of the international community.

51. The Scientific Committee's analysis of the implications of the Chernobyl accident in 1986 had contributed significantly to understanding the consequences of exposure to accidental releases of radionuclides. Improving knowledge about the effects of atomic radiation, sharing the latest scientific results and using them to develop better protection measures and more effective technologies was increasingly critical as the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes continued to grow. A long-term solution to the pending membership issue should be found at the present session. Germany was ready to facilitate the forthcoming resolution and would do its utmost to ensure that the Scientific Committee could continue its important scientific work.

52. **Mr. Zdorov** (Belarus) said he hoped that delegations would have sufficient time to analyse the report and to hold consultations on the draft resolution on the effects of atomic radiation. His delegation welcomed the Committee's work on assessment of the consequences of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi

nuclear power plant. The resources available to the Scientific Committee should be strengthened, one option being to grant full membership to the six States that had applied for membership in 2007. An expansion of the membership to 27 members would be an important milestone in the Committee's work and streamlining of procedures should obviate the need for an increase in resources or in the duration of the annual sessions.

53. Belarus had attended meetings of the Scientific Committee as an observer since 2008 and was interested in continuing its work as a full member. Belarusian scientists could make a significant contribution, as demonstrated by their involvement in the preparation of a number of the Scientific Committee's reports, including on issues related to Chernobyl, and their participation in the project to study the consequences of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. In that connection, cooperation activities with Japan were also being implemented. Belarus was studying the effects of radiation on man and the environment not only in the context of Chernobyl programmes, but also through a scientific support programme for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Belarus.

54. In conclusion, the process of joining the Scientific Committee had been unnecessarily prolonged and did not facilitate work of the observer countries. Member States should take a decision to expand the membership during the current session.

55. **Mr. Sanabria** (Spain) said that medical exposure to nuclear radiation remained an international priority in radiation protection. The fiftieth session of the Scientific Committee had taken place shortly after the nuclear accident in Japan and twenty-five years after the Chernobyl accident. In Oviedo, Spain, the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for Concord had just been awarded to the "heroes of Fukushima" as an expression of recognition and admiration for the reaction of Japanese society to the catastrophe. The work of the Scientific Committee would certainly contribute to mitigating the consequences of the accident and improving protection measures against future incidents.

56. The issue of expanding the membership of the Scientific Committee to include six additional States had been pending for five years and any further delay would be detrimental to its work. The scientists from observer countries should be given equal status with the full members in recognition of their services. An estimated budgetary increase of about $50,000 could not be an insoluble obstacle. The resolution to be adopted at the current session should include an invitation to the six countries that currently had observer status to become full members of the Committee and to designate their scientific representatives.

57. **Mr. Zhukov** (Russian Federation) said that his country supported international efforts to minimize the negative impact of atomic radiation from both natural and man-made sources on human health and the environment. The Russian Federation, which together with Ukraine and Belarus had suffered the impact of the Chernobyl accident, had the highest international standards for nuclear safety, as confirmed by many IAEA missions to assess various aspects of safe operation of Russian nuclear facilities.

58. The accident at Fukushima had demonstrated the need to strengthen the international legal framework for nuclear safety. In June 2011, his Government had suggested that existing gaps in international instruments in that area should be addressed by making amendments to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. It had also made suggestions to improve IAEA safety standards. He hoped that those initiatives would receive broad support.

59. **Mr. Shin** Dong Ik (Republic of Korea) said that his country, as the fifth largest generator of nuclear power, currently operated 21 nuclear power plants and had five more under construction. It would continue to implement its "low carbon, green growth" policy and hoped to share with the international community its accumulated experience in the construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

60. The Republic of Korea had sought membership of the Scientific Committee and had participated in meetings as an observer since 2008. It would contribute to the project on the assessment of the levels and effects of radiation exposure following the Fukushima accident and experts from the Republic of Korea would participate in all four expert groups.

61. In consultations in Vienna, Member States had expressed their wish to settle the membership issue by the end of 2011. Although budgetary concerns had been raised, the participation of the six observer

countries over the past three years had not posed any additional financial burden. In addition, the 2010-2011 biennium budget already covered a substantial part of the monetary implications of such an expansion. If necessary, members, including the Republic of Korea, could voluntarily cover the travel costs of their experts. His Government appreciated the efforts of the secretariat and the Chairman in undertaking numerous tasks with limited financial and human resources. Settlement of the membership issue would enable the Scientific Committee to focus on its scientific and technological tasks.

62. In conclusion, he drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of atomic radiation in the Marshall Islands (A/66/378) and its reference to the request of the Secretary-General that the Scientific Committee be provided with all the resources necessary to accomplish its task of a full assessment of the levels of exposure and radiation risks attributable to the Fukushima accident. The added expertise of the six observer countries would greatly contribute to that process.

63. **Ms. Miháliková** (Slovakia) said that nuclear energy was still an important source of power for many countries and careful evaluation of its positive and negative aspects was important. She welcomed the active engagement of the Scientific Committee in assessing the impact on health and the environment of the accident at the Fukushima plant and in publishing updated information on its website. As children were more affected by radiation than adults, she welcomed the decision to concentrate in the near future on the assessment of radiation effects and risks for children.

64. Understanding the effects of low-dosage exposure would help to formulate international standards and to protect the public and professionals. Her delegation also appreciated the work on a new strategy for data collection and encouraged United Nations organizations and agencies to provide data. The Scientific Committee, with the assistance of relevant organizations and Governments, should share the information with the general public as well as with the scientific community.

65. Slovak experts had participated in the work of the Scientific Committee on the effects of atomic radiation since its establishment, one of their main areas of expertise being the effects of radiation releases related to nuclear energy production. Slovakia had been appointed to fill the seat vacated by the former Czechoslovakia and the continuing cooperation and participation of experts from both successor countries as members of one delegation could serve as an example of how to approach the issue of membership. Her delegation was ready to support any cost-neutral solution that would help achieve a broad consensus without compromising the efficiency of the work of the Scientific Committee.

66. **Mr. Nissilä** (Finland) said that Finland had contributed to the work of the Scientific Committee as an observer since 2006 and should now become a full member. The decision should be taken in 2011, as a further extension of the discussion would take too much time from substantive work. As a full member, his country would make a greater contribution to the work of the Scientific Committee. Finland had already provided national input in response to the Scientific Committee's surveys, while many publications by Finnish scientists had been cited in its reports. Electronic databases developed by Finland could help to facilitate the global surveys on population doses received from diagnostic medicine.

67. Finland had provided the Committee with reports on internal exposure to radioactive substances and had contributed to assessing the consequences of the nuclear accident in Japan. More than 20 Finnish experts were willing to contribute to the future work of the Scientific Committee. Various solutions for the financial implications of new members were possible and Finland would consider the possibility of paying for the travel and accommodation costs of its representatives. New members would bring an important contribution to the scientific work of the Scientific Committee.

68. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that international peace and security continued to be threatened by the existence of over 23,000 nuclear warheads, half of them ready for immediate use. The use of just a small part of that arsenal would lead to a nuclear winter and the destruction of all forms of life on the planet. It was unacceptable that certain nuclear-weapon States continued to resort to nuclear deterrence as part of their security doctrine. The use of nuclear arms was an illegal and totally immoral act that could not be justified by any circumstance or doctrine of security, as their use would be a flagrant violation of international norms relating to prevention of genocide. The only way to guarantee that they were not used

would be their elimination and prohibition under strict international control, subject to a legally binding international regime.

69. The work of the Scientific Committee was a source of expert, balanced and objective information on the issues within its competence. It was therefore essential to maintain and strengthen links of cooperation between the Committee, Member States and various United Nations system organizations, such as WHO, IAEA and UNEP. The concerns expressed by the representatives of the Marshall Islands, as contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/378) should be given careful consideration.

70. Despite limited resources, Cuba had provided significant cooperation to its brother nation Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Since 1990, Cuba and Ukraine had carried out a rehabilitation programme for victims, who were mainly children. So far, Cuba had provided treatment for over 25,000 patients from Ukraine and other countries. The programme also had a significant scientific impact, providing primary data on internal contamination in children from the affected areas. That information was disseminated at the most relevant scientific events and was used by international bodies, including IAEA and the Scientific Committee, in their studies of the effects of atomic radiation. The Scientific Committee had also cited Cuban papers produced by that programme in publications reviewing the impact of the Chernobyl accident and had shown interest in receiving more data.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/66/SR.14

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record (partial)* of the 14th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 24 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Miculescu ..... (Romania)

Contents

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

* No summary record was prepared for the middle portion of the meeting.

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11-56109 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

1. **Mr. Ladsous** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations), paying tribute to those who had sacrificed their lives in the cause of peace and thanking Member States for the scale of their response to the growing demands of United Nations peacekeeping, said that it was a top priority to help host countries ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. He would be interested in hearing the Committee's views on how to continue strengthening the crucial global partnership at the heart of peacekeeping — between the Security Council and Member States, host countries, the Secretariat, and major regional and international organizations. A key area of concentration in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were the developments in the Sudan and South Sudan. In July 2011, after the liquidation of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) had been established with the mandate to help build the capacity of the nascent State in the areas of rule of law and governance, while also working to protect civilians and facilitating humanitarian aid. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), mandated to protect civilians in that border area, was also being deployed. Meanwhile, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), with virtually full deployment of personnel, continued its efforts to consolidate peace in that region, and was under review to ensure the best use of resources.

2. The difficult security environment in Afghanistan made the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) very challenging, and that operation would soon be undergoing a comprehensive Security Council-mandated review. Furthermore, the political and security impact of the major changes in some countries of the wider Middle East on the four peacekeeping operations in that region had not yet been fully assessed. In conjunction with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) led by the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was exploring with Libyan authorities how it might assist in the areas of public security, community-based policing, mine action and transitional justice.

3. In West Africa, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had helped that country to overcome a major political crisis and constitutional challenge. UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), in close collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other partners, were now working with the respective Governments to address the new humanitarian and security cross-border challenges stemming from that recent crisis. In Liberia, undeniable progress had otherwise been made with the support of the international community in consolidating peace and establishing the steady state of security that was one of the preconditions for an eventual handover of functions from UNMIL to national authorities. The Government would, however, need continued international help in conducting the ongoing electoral process and in dealing with the remaining rule-of-law challenges it faced.

4. The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), expected to depart by the end of 2012, was working closely with the Timorese authorities and others involved to develop a long-term plan for institutional and functional capacity-building, and to ensure an effective transition process. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) would help the Government of that vast country logistically and technically as it organized and conducted national, provincial and local elections from 2011 to 2013. The Mission would also continue to concentrate on its key priority, ensuring that civilians were protected through that and other critical milestones.

5. In Haiti, with the formation of a new Government, the country could now focus on rebuilding itself after the devastating earthquake of January 2010. As the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) prepared to return to its pre-earthquake troop and police levels, the Mission would focus on fostering political dialogue and consensus and strengthening the capacity of Haiti's institutions to ensure good governance and uphold the rule of law as key conditions for its eventual withdrawal.

6. One area of clear and continuing progress was in the stronger representation of women in United Nations peacekeeping. Four of the 11 Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and 30 per cent of the civilian staff were women; and the aim was to have women as 20 per cent of the United Nations Police by 2014. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations remained committed to increasing the presence of women in all areas of peacekeeping.

7. Peacekeeping tasks and missions had evolved over the years, and currently, in addition to traditional and multidimensional peacekeeping operations, there were missions devoted largely to the physical protection of civilians, such as UNISFA. The support systems therefore had to be agile and responsive to changing conditions on the ground. Delivering on complex mandates would increasingly depend on the ability to reliably deploy police and other high-calibre civilian personnel, such as rule-of-law and security-sector-reform experts, and to ensure that formed police units had adequate training and equipment. Missions involving such a range of expertise and operational capabilities clearly had to be planned and managed in an integrated manner, and had to pave the way for meeting the post-conflict needs for citizen security, justice and jobs.

8. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations planned to issue a second progress report on the New Horizon initiative in the coming weeks. In the area of mission planning and oversight, triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries had been strengthened, as had oversight and leadership accountability. All nine peacekeeping missions concerned and United Nations country teams now had in place integrated strategic frameworks that identified common strategic objectives and established a clearer allocation of key roles across the United Nations system; and a new internal evaluation of command and control was under way, drawing on the views of members of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, force commanders from troop-contributing countries and field mission commanders.

9. In the second key area — building policy consensus on critical peacekeeping roles — the Department had undertaken a number of initiatives over the past three years. With respect to protection of civilians, it had developed a framework for the preparation of mission-specific mandates, in the field, and devised tools, including a set of training materials, to help missions achieve practical results, and at the same time assist governments to make the necessary reforms to build their capacity to protect. With respect to the peacebuilding role, the Department had, in conjunction with the Department of Field Support, formulated a strategy by which peacekeepers would set immediate priorities and sequence their own early peacebuilding tasks; without taking on the whole spectrum of longer-term peacebuilding tasks, and additional work was under way in the two related areas of transitions and the socio-economic aspects of peacekeeping. Furthermore, the Department had worked with Member States to build a shared understanding of what constituted "effective" peacekeeping. Three regional conferences, about which Member States would be fully informed, had brought together military experts to examine key practical aspects such as deterrence, use of force as agreed under long-standing principles of peacekeeping, and operational readiness.

10. In the third priority area of field support, the Global Field Support Strategy was entering its second year of implementation. Peacekeeping had been and continued to be a highly cost-effective tool for international peace and security, especially when compared to national military spending, and a unique instrument for burden-sharing. The coming year would be a critical one for shaping a comprehensive approach to the fourth key area, capability development. Three pilot projects on military components of peacekeeping that identified common baseline operational standards and developed important training materials would be completed by the time the Special Committee met formally in 2012. The Secretariat needed to work with Member States to address critical and systemic gaps in peacekeeping capabilities. Both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were working to improve communication with the Security Council and with troop-contributing countries about those gaps and about helicopter assets. They had also evaluated the impact of gap lists circulated periodically to Member States and the proposal to establish a clearinghouse for Member State contributions. Expanding the base of contributors to peacekeeping was an ongoing need and would require efforts on the part of potential contributors as well as a more strategic approach by the Secretariat to force generation. Innovative steps had been taken to improve inter-mission cooperation to allow a regional response

to regional conflicts, but that approach should be only a bridging measure and not a substitute for the adequate provision of capabilities to address longer-term requirements of missions.

11. Moreover, recent important reports of the Senior Advisory Group on Civilian Capacity and of the Secretary-General had discussed the issue of civilian personnel requirements. It was essential that peacekeeping reforms in that area — which must be consistent with wider United Nations reforms — should bolster both the quality and the ready availability of critical capacities. One particular need was in the area of policing, where there was a growing demand for more specialized personnel to fulfil protection-of-civilians mandates and to create or strengthen national capacity to address issues, such as community-oriented policing, transnational organized crime and border management.

12. He himself was personally committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct for all United Nations peacekeeping personnel. Constant vigilance and a zero-tolerance policy had been instituted and were being applied. In that, he relied also on troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure that such incidents were met with swift and decisive action at the national level; and to contribute only personnel whose previous conduct had been ascertained to be of the highest standard with regard to their criminal or human rights records.

13. United Nations peacekeeping had gained in professionalism over the years, but perhaps its greatest asset was the creative spark and the spirit of those who took part in what had become a major instrument for peace and security.

14. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) said that the Department of Field Support was pursuing a professional, systematic approach that could adapt to diverse operating environments and aimed to move from simple support functions to strategic management of financial, human, technological and physical resources.

15. In the current climate of fiscal restraint, the Secretariat's 2011-2012 funding proposals for continuing missions reflected a 2 per cent reduction from the previous year, a considerable savings resulting from the abolition or nationalization of many hundreds of international staffing posts, and operating and procurement efficiencies, even as the level of peacekeeping operations remained high. The continuing implementation of a global approach to field support would realize further cost savings through the consolidation of back-office functions and reduction of in-mission footprints.

16. The bimonthly briefings by the Department of Field Support to the Special Committee had provided opportunities for regular consultation and vital feedback throughout the development and implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy. The Fourth Committee had also provided valuable insights, and would be receiving an informal paper from the Department on a proposed end state for the Strategy in 2015. The objectives of the Strategy were to expedite and improve mission support; strengthen resource stewardship and accountability while achieving greater efficiencies and economies of scale; and improve safety and living conditions of staff. It had already improved delivery of support to missions, and was now helping to ensure that appropriations were used more efficiently without compromising the level of what was being delivered.

17. Over the past year, the Department had had to operate in a rapidly evolving and diverse environment in the field. In the Sudan, it had been called upon to provide logistical support to the successful referendum held in January 2011, followed by the liquidation of UNMIS along with the concurrent deployment of UNISFA and the deployment of UNMISS in South Sudan. Another new mission, UNSMIL, had been very rapidly deployed in Libya. In Somalia, the United Nations Support Office (UNSOA) for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was approaching the third year of delivering logistical support to the African Union peacekeepers, with controlled numbers of United Nations personnel keeping essential work going despite the difficult security environment. Support had been provided to the successful elections in Liberia; and impressive logistical support planning had intensified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in preparation for the upcoming elections.

18. The Global Service Centre, which comprised the capabilities of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and the United Nations Support Base in Valencia, had played a central role in responding to those operational demands, and additional functions would soon be moved to it from Headquarters. The Regional Service Centre in Entebbe had also begun to

operate and was having an immediate impact, particularly in South Sudan and Abyei. Building on its success, the Secretary-General would, in response to requests from the field, be recommending, in his next annual report on progress in the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy, the establishment of two additional regional service centres in West Africa and the Middle East.

19. Modularization had advanced: camp design had been completed and tested in the field, and reliable enabling capacities, both internal and contracted, would be on hand. Furthermore, a review had been completed of all human resources management and logistical functions, resulting in recommendations to transfer some non-strategic functions to the Global Service Centre, while retaining Member State liaison, planning and workforce monitoring at Headquarters.

20. With reference to the financial framework, the standardized funding model, which would speed up the deployment of missions, had been approved by the General Assembly at its resumed sixty-fifth session. In response to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/259, the introduction of enterprise risk management practices and letters of representation, which were both an internal control measure and a managerial accountability tool, had made for greater accountability.

21. Concerted efforts had been made to improve the processing of Member State claims for death and disability of troops and police contributed to field operations, and most pending claims had been cleared. Moreover, reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries had been made for contingent-owned equipment for the period up to June 2011 for all but three peacekeeping missions. The next payment was scheduled for December 2011. The Secretary-General was in the process of setting up the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues, as requested in General Assembly resolution 65/289; and Member States would now need to respond to the Secretary-General's request for nominations.

22. Peacekeeping missions were facing severe shortages of critical capabilities, especially military helicopters. Missions also depended upon the troop- and police-contributing countries with the required capacities to continue to supply them. Her Department was working very closely with the Office of Military Affairs to find creative ways of enlarging the pool of potential contributors and ensuring a seamless management of both military and commercial assets; and procurement methods were being reviewed to address concerns raised by troop-contributing countries.

23. Civilian personnel also played a vital role in the success of United Nations peacekeeping and in the performance of complex tasks. The recent report of the Secretary-General (A/65/680) proposed a realistic set of recommendations for filling the need for qualified civilian staff in the current difficult fiscal climate. The United Nations needed to work more effectively with international partners, particularly from the developing countries, in delivering civilian support, and to plan and budget for civilian capacities in a way that better reflected changing demands.

24. Regarding the conduct of peacekeepers, the goals were to strengthen accountability within the Organization among its leaders and personnel at large, to preserve the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations and, above all, to protect and serve those in need. Nowhere was the Organization's commitment to its core values more visibly demonstrated, and tested, than in the exercise of the fundamental duty of care that all peacekeeping personnel owed to the local population that they served and protected. Regrettably, the exemplary record of peacekeepers over the years continued to be clouded by serious acts of misconduct by a few individuals, including inexcusable acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Secretariat was following very closely those cases where civilian staff were involved, to ensure due process within a reasonable time. She herself had personally reached out to troop-contributing countries to ensure that allegations were addressed promptly in the case of uniformed personnel. It was also critical that Member States should provide information on the status of all pending investigations, under the agreed procedure set out by the General Assembly.

25. Spurred on by the loss of peacekeepers who had died in tragic incidents, and for the sake of those serving under dangerous conditions, the Department of Field Support was pressing forward with established safety and security policies and procedures in all missions, and improving emergency preparedness generally.

The public part of the meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

26. **Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, recalled the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping — consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality — that were its moral foundation, and emphasized also the need to respect sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention. The Movement stressed the need to ensure the safety of the personnel serving in missions worldwide and to equip them to carry out their vital and often dangerous tasks. United Nations peacekeeping should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict through a comprehensive political process. A bolder stance on the interdependence of security and development was needed. Peacekeeping operations should be provided from the outset with the needed political support, as well as with sufficient human, financial and logistical resources, clearly defined and achievable mandates, and exit strategies.

27. Peacekeeping missions had become overextended and underresourced, and that could have dangerous repercussions. More effective peacekeeping demanded proactive management of logistics and mission support, which would require remedying the well-known shortages in critical assets and equipment. As the largest contributors of troops and police personnel, the members of the Non-Aligned Movement were anxious to convey the preoccupations of peacekeepers and the difficulties they encountered. It was precisely because peacekeepers represented the Security Council on the ground and converted its words into deeds that more effective triangular cooperation was needed between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, with full involvement of troop-contributing countries in the planning process. The time was right for implementing the recommendation in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) for a two-stage approach allowing the Security Council to leave a resolution in draft form until the Secretariat was able to confirm or deny the availability of the required troops and support elements.

28. It was also time to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries. The flagship activity of the United Nations could not continue to be supported in the field by only a portion of its membership, with the developed countries contracting lower-cost troops from the developing countries to do the hard and dangerous work. Burden-sharing by the entire membership would, moreover, ensure unity of vision. Furthermore, it was no longer sustainable for troop-contributing countries to subsidize peacekeeping operations by making up themselves for the scarcity of resources and equipment. It was to be hoped that the Senior Advisory Group on troop costs would find ways of addressing that structural problem that hampered the ability of the United Nations to operate effectively in increasingly challenging environments.

29. The protection of civilians remained the primary responsibility of the host Government, whose efforts the peacekeepers should only support. Mission strategies for the mandated protection of civilians had to be made to work on the ground and sufficient resources must be supplied to carry out that complex task. Peacekeeping was distinct from classic warfare and should not spill over into peace enforcement. The use of force in peacekeeping must not jeopardize the strategic relation between the host country and the peacekeeping mission. The concept of robust peacekeeping was a double-edged sword that could be fatal to impartiality.

30. As the only body charged with reviewing all aspects of peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee had succeeded in moving forward a number of important operational and institutional reforms of United Nations peacekeeping. However, it had become increasingly evident that the Committee's work could be carried out more efficiently and to greater effect. In recent years, the topics discussed in the Special Committee seemed to bear little relation to the requirements in the field, to the detriment of operational effectiveness.

31. **Mr. Mayr-Harting** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Croatia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the United Nations could continue to count on European Union support for multidimensional peacekeeping on the form of either buttressing missions or funding for United Nations operations. The peacekeeping agenda for the next few years could be summarized as enhancement, effectiveness and exit. Peacekeeping needed to be

enhanced through full implementation of the New Horizon initiative, including better protection of civilians. As the scenario-based training package went into effect and as relevant missions translated into action on the ground, the Framework for Drafting Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Strategies in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations that was being developed by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, the European Union continued to advocate the establishment of performance benchmarks and the further development of early warning tools. The peacekeeping-peacebuilding nexus needed to be further clarified by discussing the strategy for critical early peacebuilding tasks undertaken by peacekeeping operations. All peacebuilding activities should be based on national ownership, which in turn should be based on all segments of post-conflict society and should include the full participation of women. In taking a more robust approach to peacekeeping, it was essential to defer to the field and listen to the peacekeepers themselves, building on the results of the regional seminars conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The European Union continued to support the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to put in place a comprehensive capacity-driven approach to peacekeeping, by providing targeted training and ensuring coherence between military and civilian components of missions. On planning and oversight, it looked forward to the results of the ongoing evaluation on command and control.

32. With regard to effectiveness, the coming period should be dedicated to improving the Global Field Support Strategy, by for example reducing the unit cost of peacekeeping activities. The Strategy was a step in the right direction, but only a first step. The Secretariat should explore other ways to improve efficiency by reallocating resources, through a reliance on more inter-mission cooperation, assessment of the appropriateness of troop size in each mission, a redistribution of assets, or investment in labour-saving technology, such as surveillance technology.

33. As the role of a mission came to an end, responsible transition and exit strategies must be devised. Keeping the peace after peacekeeping required attention to socio-economic, environmental and security consequences of the presence of peacekeeping operations. To prevent a security vacuum from occurring after an operation was terminated, it would be necessary to invest in security sector reform. An up-to-date report by the Secretary-General on the subject could contribute to a common understanding within the United Nations system of what security sector reform actually meant, and better position it to make the most of its comparative advantages in the field. It needed to be recognized as a cross-cutting issue fundamental to broader state-building objectives. It was also important to have a clear vision and a single strategy at the country level as well that would ensure a coherent and coordinated approach. The European Union itself had long been active in the area of security sector reform in over 70 countries.

34. The European Union agreed with the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the need to improve the working methods of the Special Committee if it wanted to keep its central place in the peacekeeping machinery.

35. **Mr. Nankervis** (Australia), speaking on behalf also of Canada and New Zealand, noted with satisfaction the progress towards developing predeployment scenario-based training modules for peacekeepers on protection of civilians, including ways of responding to sexual violence in conflict. He encouraged the Secretariat to develop guidelines that would more clearly articulate the responsibilities of uniformed peacekeepers. Civilian components of peacekeeping missions also played a vital role in protecting civilians, and joint protection teams and civil affairs officers were critical to understanding the needs of local communities which, invariably, were best placed to provide an early warning of potential threats to their safety.

36. The Secretariat Framework for protection of civilians was an important tool, helping missions to consider risk analysis and mitigation measures, early warning and crisis response mechanisms. Benchmarks to help measure progress in implementing peacekeeping mandates could assist in proper management of finite resources for protection of civilians. The Secretariat should also develop further guidance on operational readiness, deterrence and the use of force.

37. Peacekeeping missions were often a small part of a longer-term effort to build sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. The International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

had emphasized the importance of security for achieving effective development and long-term peace. The *World Development Report 2011* also established clear links between security and development and made recommendations to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict. There was scope for greater coordination between institutions such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the Security Council, other bodies in the United Nations system and international financial institutions such as the World Bank.

38. Peacekeeping missions often served as early peacebuilders, providing vital support to the establishment of security, political processes and restoration of State authority. In planning and coordinating early peacebuilding tasks, missions must be guided by the host nation to ensure strong national ownership and responsiveness to local needs; and the Secretariat's development of a strategy to help missions perform those critical tasks was welcome. Police and civilian peacekeepers were often integral to peacekeeping operations. The recommendations made in the independent report of the Senior Advisory Group on Civilian Capacity (A/65/747) on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict and the recent report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/66/311) were worthy of thorough and detailed consideration.

39. Significant work remained to be done to ensure that the participation of women in peacekeeping operations was increased, as advocated over 10 years earlier in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), that reform efforts in post-conflict societies were gender-responsive and every effort was made to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. The forward-looking strategy on gender mainstreaming developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was therefore encouraging.

40. Further analysis of tools and skills to help peacekeepers meet new challenges in a meaningful and cost-effective manner and in the specific context of each mission was needed. The efforts under way to develop capability standards would further the implementation of mission mandates. Improved capabilities entailed reliance on partnerships and the comparative advantages that Member States and international organizations could bring to specific missions. Bilateral and multilateral capacity-building partnerships were also important, as were efforts to support new and emerging troop- and police-contributing countries by providing specialized personnel training. However, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should work closely with Member States, training institutes and regional organizations to ensure that all training programmes met United Nations standards.

41. Progress by the United Nations system in implementing the Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel had been slow, and the Secretariat should provide an update on action taken before the next Special Committee session.

42. There must be regular consultations between all those involved in peacekeeping, including the Security Council, the host countries and the troop- and police-contributing countries. The Security Council and the Secretariat had a responsibility to ensure that expectations about what peacekeeping missions were equipped to do were well understood. Cost-effectiveness and efficiency would assume greater importance in the current global fiscal climate, and the Global Field Support Strategy remained an important driver in securing economies of scale to improve the delivery of support to operations.

43. It was critical that United Nations missions have sustained political support. The experiences in Haiti and Timor-Leste had demonstrated the value of informal coalitions to peacekeeping missions throughout their life cycle, and similar informal mechanisms might assist other missions. Strengthening partnerships in planning and conducting operations — so much a focus of the New Horizon initiative — was also key to efforts to improve peacekeeping.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/66/SR.15

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Kelly (Vice-Chair) ..... (Ireland)
later: Mr. Ciss (Vice-Chair)..... (Senegal)

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Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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11-56279 (E)

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In the absence of Ms. Miculescu (Romania), Mr. Kelly (Ireland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the operational capacity and organizational structure of United Nations peacekeeping required further strengthening. Since their perceived legitimacy was essential, peacekeeping missions must conform fully with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality, and use of force only in self-defence or in defence of the mandate. The Rio Group was ready to participate in informal talks on improving the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which should interact more with the Security Council and the Fifth Committee. Having taken part in the New Horizon process, the Group took note of the update paper and urged the Secretariat to continue consulting Member States. Underlining the importance of the global field support strategy, the Group took note of the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the strategy (A/65/643) and called for further consultations.

2. Recalling that most peacekeepers came from developing countries, he said that the Security Council should take the views of all troop- and police-contributing countries into account. The system of periodic information meetings on military issues needed consolidating, in particular in higher-threat areas. Better coordination between the Security Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was vital. Regional peacekeeping arrangements, which could not replace the United Nations, must function in accordance with the Charter and peacekeeping principles. Convinced that the highest level of ethical conduct of all peacekeeping personnel must be guaranteed and the policy of zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse must be maintained, the Group welcomed the progress in implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel.

3. The peacekeeping system could not be sustained unless troop- and police-contributing countries had the necessary capacities. The progress in making timely reimbursements to Member States was welcome, but the Secretariat should make further improvements, ensuring that all missions were treated equally. Concerned that the availability of human and material resources, especially from developing countries, could be at risk, members of the Rio Group had participated in recent sessions of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment. Notwithstanding the agreement on revised reimbursement rates, the Working Group's recommendations fell short of the Rio Group's expectations, taking into account inflation. The Rio Group took note of General Assembly resolution 63/285 and called on the Working Group to review the results of the periodic inspections at the end of the current exercise and then every three years, in order to provide the Fifth Committee with a technical manual. The previous review of troop costs having been in 1992, and in view of the heavy burden on troop-contributing countries, the Group welcomed the one-off payment for 2011/12 and the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. To ensure the Senior Advisory Group's legitimacy, troop-contributing countries from all regions should participate in the mechanism to constitute it.

4. The Group looked forward to receiving details of the capability-driven approach, whose ultimate aim should be to improve training in countries wishing to contribute to peacekeeping. It again insisted that publications on peacekeeping operations should be distributed in Spanish and Portuguese. The Group welcomed recent cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

5. The Special Committee should hold in-depth discussions on every aspect of peacekeeping reflecting the need to take context into account in mandates. Without effective coordination between the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the funds and programmes, acting in coordination with the national authorities of countries emerging from conflict, the peacebuilding process could not advance. In order to achieve long-term stability and prevent the recurrence of conflict, the United Nations field presence must be enhanced, not only in peacekeeping but also in

strengthening institutions, promoting reconstruction and fostering economic and social development in conflict areas. There should be more coordination between Member States and United Nations bodies, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission. Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), he noted that only 3 per cent of military personnel and 9 per cent of police were women. The Rio Group called for an increase in the number of women deployed in peacekeeping missions.

6. Reaffirming its solidarity with the Haitian people and Government, the Rio Group acknowledged the international effort in Haiti, under the leadership of the Government. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) should remain as long as necessary, under the renewed mandate contained in Security Council resolution 2012 (2011). Members of the Rio Group contributed police personnel and most of the troops along with technical cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Special attention must be paid to security and also to Haiti's economic and social development. Within the scope of its mandate, MINUSTAH should use all available means to continue supporting Haiti's reconstruction.

7. **Mr. Sabyeroop** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, although mediation and monitoring of peace agreements were useful, United Nations peacekeeping remained the best instrument for maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations must respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in domestic affairs. In post-conflict environments above all, a holistic approach was needed. The Security Council should therefore enhance complementarity between peacekeeping operations and other essential work, by means of realistic exit strategies and a smooth transition to peacebuilding and development. United Nations peacekeeping was a unique global partnership involving the Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat. With over 120,000 peacekeepers currently serving in 16 operations, trilateral cooperation and coordination should be strengthened.

8. Many ASEAN member States were troop- and police-contributing countries. Almost 5,000 of their police, troops and military experts were deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Through improved coordination between its competent sectoral bodies, ASEAN hoped to strengthen its role in peacekeeping. In view of the importance of clear, credible and realistic mandates, troop- and police-contributing countries should be included at every stage of mandate-drafting; mandates must not overstretch those countries' resources.

9. Taking note of the efforts to enhance the well-being of troops on the ground, ASEAN hoped that the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors would make constructive proposals. ASEAN looked forward to further progress in making operations more efficient and would closely examine the progress report on the global field support strategy. Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Department of Field Support to close the resource gap, ASEAN believed that South-South cooperation should play a significant role. The review of civilian capacity should strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and Member States, in particular those from the South.

10. Speaking as the representative of Thailand, he saluted peacekeepers, including Thai nationals, who had lost their lives. Thailand had contributed nearly 20,000 troops and military observers, along with police officers, to United Nations peacekeeping [illegible] two decades, testifying to its unwavering commitment to peace and security.

11. **Mr. Vargas** (Brazil) said that the ultimate goal of peacekeeping must be to create conditions for lasting peace. In that regard security must go hand in hand with development. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to ask peacekeeping missions to provide information on their local economic impact; they should also make recommendations on how to maximize their impact. Strengthening the rule of law was another key aspect of peacekeepers' work and rule-of-law assistance should be given wherever necessary. In certain circumstances, peacekeepers should also help with managing natural resources, guaranteeing property and land rights, and establishing administrative structures. Knowledge management and civil affairs were crucial peacekeeping tools that needed further strengthening.

12. Peacekeeping required the best possible human and material resources, a delicate issue in the current financial climate. However, maintaining artificially low reimbursement rates did not lower costs but transferred them to the troop-contributing countries, to the detriment of training, preparedness and capabilities.

Welcoming the Fifth Committee's decision to harmonize conditions of service, he voiced his delegation's support for the civilian capacity review, but called for attention to be paid to achieving gender equality and equitable geographical representation in mission leadership. The report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must be action-oriented and all delegations must participate in its work. His delegation would contribute to improving the Special Committee's working methods and hoped to see results at its next session.

13. **Ms. Sutikno** (Indonesia) saluted United Nations peacekeepers who had been killed or injured over the previous year. Indonesia had contributed to peacekeeping operations since 1957 and would continue to do so. As missions had become more complex and dangerous, it was incumbent on the international community to provide clear guidelines along with the requisite equipment, training and resources. The Security Council must continue to monitor the situation on the ground while the Secretariat must provide sound and credible assessments; troop- and police-contributing countries must be involved at every stage of peacekeeping. Shortfalls in resources would affect not only the safety of peacekeepers but also their ability to protect civilians. Her delegation therefore called on the Secretary-General to include in his briefings on peacekeeping operations a realistic assessment of how available capabilities and logistics planning affected mandate implementation, including the protection of civilians.

14. In addition to peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding was crucial for war-torn societies; her delegation endorsed the request of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for effective coordination by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations and non-United Nations agencies. Furthermore, skilled and culturally aware civilian experts, especially from the South, could be deployed in areas where their expertise was required. She supported the efforts to improve the Special Committee's working methods.

15. **Mr. Pham** Vinh Quang (Viet Nam) emphasized the wide range of complex mandates entrusted to United Nations peacekeeping missions and the continued efforts by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support to meet demands effectively. His delegation welcomed the recommendations in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on preserving unity of command in peacekeeping missions at all levels, and the need for coherence in policy and strategy. To strengthen United Nations peacekeeping, the implementation of mandates and the reform of peacekeeping must be carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized principles. The Secretariat must provide all stakeholders with an early assessment of capabilities and resource requirements before launching a new operation.

16. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional arrangements would allow for full understanding of situations and help missions to achieve their objectives. Peacekeeping could not resolve all problems relating to international peace and security, nor was it a substitute for national and local processes of reconciliation. For sustainable peace to be achieved, the root causes of conflicts must be resolved, through engagement of all parties on the basis of dialogue and peaceful settlement of disputes. Viet Nam was preparing to participate in peacekeeping operations, in accordance with its capacities.

17. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt) said that United Nations peacekeeping faced heightened demand, greater complexity and extra responsibility, increasing the burdens on the Organization and on troop- and police-contributing countries. In that regard, there was a need for improved assessment, effective planning and rapid emergency response. Peacekeeping should not be seen as an alternative to addressing the root causes of conflict or as a conflict-management tool. With regard to the New Horizon process, concepts, policies and strategies should evolve alongside progress in planning and oversight. The requisite resources and greater political will were needed to guarantee the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

18. Asserting the need for effective triangular cooperation, he affirmed the importance of achieving consensus among Member States on policy development and implementing only approaches that had been collectively adopted. Peacekeeping missions should receive proper financial, human, military and civilian support and their tasks must not be changed without the consent of troop-contributing countries. Mandates must be clear, feasible and linked to implementation on the ground. Welcoming the

establishment of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, he expressed the hope that it would resolve the important issues involved. However, the recommendations of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment fell short of expectations.

19. In his view, deterrence must be achieved without unjustified expansion of the capacity to use force. Further consultation was needed with Member States to counter violations of the safety of personnel. His delegation called for greater attention to be paid to exit strategies, as States increasingly requested the termination of missions where they perceived a switch to conflict management. There must be increased integration of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Commission, but not in order to cut costs. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for United Nations military intervention and a solution must be found to the legal difficulties relating to the characterisation of civilians in armed conflicts as combatants. Egypt supported the role of the police in United Nations peacekeeping. Cooperation with regional organizations should continue and the African Union, in particular, should receive United Nations financial and logistical support. He called for further consultations on the implementation of the global field support strategy to address the challenges of field support for peacekeeping operations.

20. As proof of its commitment to peacekeeping, Egypt remained one of the biggest troop- and police-contributing countries, and would continue to contribute military, police and civilian personnel to peacekeeping operations. He concluded by paying tribute to all peacekeepers, in particular those who had lost their lives.

21. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his country was proud of its achievements in peacekeeping. It had organized free and fair elections in April 2010, under international and regional supervision, and a peaceful referendum on self-determination in southern Sudan, after which it had recognized the independence of South Sudan. The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) had been wound up in July 2011, but the Sudan continued to work with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). He called on the international community to apply pressure on those parties that had not signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; they were to blame for recent criminal activity. Thanks to the UNAMID tripartite coordinating mechanism between the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union, there had been a considerable improvement in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, where murder rates had fallen as a result of the host country's cooperation with the United Nations mission.

22. Peacekeeping operations must comply with the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Recalling the Brahimi report, he emphasized that the use of force was permissible only in self-defence and must not harm the relationship between the host country and the mission. Peacekeeping operations had changed over time, taking on a humanitarian dimension and combining police and military elements, but those changes must not prevent the root causes of conflicts from being addressed. While peacekeeping operations could not replace political processes, they must receive political support. They needed a focused mandate and a clear and rapidly deployable exit strategy. The numbers of national personnel in peacekeeping operations should be increased, while commitments concerning the transportation and housing of troops must be honoured. He emphasized the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

23. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) said that since operations had begun 115 countries had provided peacekeeping personnel, whose numbers had increased ninefold since 1999. She paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for peace, calling for conditions in the field to be improved. The current deployment levels and the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations were unprecedented. Although peacekeeping operations were not mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations, many fulfilled military, political, humanitarian and even peacebuilding roles. Stakeholders must therefore jointly aim for efficiency, necessitating improved triangular cooperation. She called on the Security Council to define clear and objective mandates, and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to secure local support in deployment areas. The Organization must make available financial and logistical resources, in which regard more predictable financing was needed, in particular from developed countries. She called for closer partnerships between countries contributing troops and those providing equipment, while more attention should be paid to training

peacekeepers, with emphasis on respect for local customs.

24. Four of the eight peacekeeping operations deployed by the African Union and subregional organizations since 1989 had led to United Nations missions, including the hybrid operation in Darfur. Since three quarters of peacekeeping operations, in human and financial terms, were deployed in Africa, the African Union's capacity to prevent conflicts should be further strengthened. In general, more should be done to address the root causes of crises and to implement more coherent development policies. Her delegation believed that preventive diplomacy backed by early warning systems could neutralize conflicts at the outset.

25. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that, in a rapidly changing international environment, peacekeeping had constantly evolved, and remained a legitimate tool for maintaining global peace and security. Multidimensional operations currently involved civilian experts working on a range of social and judicial issues. The increased demands illustrated the growing confidence in the United Nations while highlighting the many challenges facing the international community, including the critical issues of State sovereignty and consent, along with capacity-building and the protection of civilians. Greater understanding on the part of Member States of those issues would help to dispel controversies. Since further reform would make peacekeeping operations more efficient, he welcomed the global field support strategy, which should accelerate deployment, and the New Horizon process.

26. Responsibility for peacekeeping must be shared by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the contributing and host countries, regional partners and the Secretariat, from mandate design to exit. The Security Council must ensure the coherence of peacekeeping strategies, which must be aimed at stabilizing security, supporting national political processes and creating an environment for economic development. Consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries when preparing mandates must be institutionalized; field support should be strengthened along with the ability to respond to demands for civilian capacity. The security of peacekeepers must be paid due attention while their morale and dignity should be maintained. Welcoming the establishment of the a Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, his delegation highlighted the need for the timely processing of death and disability claims. The United Nations should recognize the predeployment training offered to peacekeepers by the contributing countries, with a view to standardization.

27. Since 1958, Nepal had contributed over 90,000 troops to peacekeeping operations, marking its deep commitment to the Charter and its obligations as a responsible member of the international community. Determined to continue contributing, his country would take into account the need for gender balance. Finally, he paid tribute to those peacekeepers, including Nepalese nationals, who had sacrificed their lives.

28. **Ms. Bolaños-Pérez** (Guatemala) said that, as both a beneficiary of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and later a troop-contributing country, her country fully appreciated the value of peacekeeping operations.

29. Their nature had changed over the years, in particular since the Brahimi report. The Secretariat had presented further reports on new issues, such as gender, children in armed conflict, protection of civilians, security and the rule of law, and with the New Horizon process there had been a trend towards peacebuilding. In the context of the global field support strategy, her delegation called for improved logistical support, and commended the efforts of the Department of Field Support to ensure full participation by Member States in that process.

30. Peacekeeping operations must have clear, verifiable mandates tailored to each situation; for mandate implementation to be successful, resource gaps must be addressed through greater triangular cooperation. Each country had a specific contribution to make to peacekeeping operations; troop-contributing countries should not merely be informed, but must be consulted from the outset, through a process to which the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must contribute. In view of the Special Committee's importance as the only forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, its members must continue their efforts to improve its working methods.

31. Recalling that a few industrialized countries funded most of the peacekeeping budget whereas developing countries contributed most of the troops, her delegation warned of a potential clash that might compromise the future of operations. While it was difficult to cost lifesaving activities, the United

Nations was undoubtedly getting value for money. However, the existing imbalance underrated the contributions of troop-contributing countries, which were motivated only by the noble cause of keeping peace under the United Nations flag. That said, Guatemala hoped to be reimbursed in the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 63/285 and 65/289.

32. *Mr. Ciss (Senegal), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

33. **Ms. Vivas Mendoza** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the new challenges faced by peacekeeping missions in a changing environment called for a critical evaluation. The number of missions and deployed personnel had risen, while the mandates set by the Security Council had become more complex, leading to increased integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The success of a peacekeeping operation and the local population's perception of it depended on the legitimacy of the mission mandate. It was essential that in all circumstances peacekeeping missions should strictly adhere to the guiding principles of consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. Peacekeeping operations must also respect the principles of sovereign equality of States, political independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

34. The gap between the resources and capacities of troop-contributing countries and the expectations generated by mandates had given rise to undeniable tensions, as had the legal vacuum that made it impossible to determine exactly who was responsible for protecting civilians. The General Assembly must consider to what extent new doctrines were compatible with the basic peacekeeping principles. Peacekeeping operations must comply with their mandates, which must not jeopardize the complex relationship between United Nations personnel and their national counterparts. Reiterating the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, she welcomed the recent efforts to improve its working methods and called for improved coordination between that Committee and peacekeeping missions. The ethical conduct of peacekeeping personnel must be irreproachable and the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation must be fully applied. The international community should tackle the root causes of conflicts, which could only be remedied through political, social and economic measures designed to contribute to the well-being and development of peoples. Finally, she paid tribute to peacekeepers who had lost their lives.

35. **Mr. Abulhasan** (Kuwait) said that, in view of the difficult, delicate and complex nature of peacekeeping mandates, it was essential for peacekeeping forces to be given clearly defined tasks and objectives. There must be continued coordination and consultation between the Security Council and countries providing contingents, with lessons learned and best practices integrated into operational planning. Peacekeeping forces must be given full financial and technical support, in which connection comprehensive field studies should be conducted to identify their needs. In addition, the United Nations should play a more active role in the area of preventive diplomacy and early warning.

36. His Government's contributions to the budgets of peacekeeping operations had increased fivefold in recent years. Kuwait had paid its contributions in full and on time, convinced as it was that peacekeeping missions could fulfil their mandates only if the necessary resources were made available. It was to be hoped that all States would follow Kuwait's example.

37. The courage and sacrifice of the individuals participating in peacekeeping operations were worthy of the highest praise, and every effort should be made to ensure their safety. His delegation offered its deepest sympathy to the families and countries of those who had died while furthering the establishment of security, safety and peace by serving in peacekeeping forces.

38. **Mr. Idris** (Eritrea) said that as inter-State conflicts, formerly the main preoccupation of peacekeeping, had been superseded by intra-State conflicts, missions were often charged with not only monitoring peace but also protecting civilians and rebuilding States. Convinced that, for future operations to be effective, United Nations peacekeeping must be overhauled, his delegation commended the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for reviewing the conceptual and operational framework of peacekeeping. In order to meet the growing threats to international security peacekeeping must evolve. Yet the basic principles underlying peacekeeping, including the Charter principles of respect for sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention, must be respected. Operations must not be seen as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts nor must their neutrality be compromised. While regional arrangements were

important in the search for peace, they could not replace the United Nations in peacekeeping efforts; in many places, especially in Africa, caution was required when deploying troops from neighbouring countries. In view of the need to maintain credibility, it was vital to deter and punish misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by peacekeepers. He paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice far from home.

39. **Mr. Png** Yan Da (Singapore) said that his country had contributed to 15 peacekeeping and observer missions since 1989; each one had presented constantly changing issues and had raised high expectations locally and internationally. Singapore considered capacity-building to be an excellent way of enabling post-conflict communities to achieve lasting peace. By investing in post-conflict State-building the international community could help a country return to normal. The protection of civilians, who were increasingly at risk in conflicts, was not the sole responsibility of United Nations peacekeepers, who should work in tandem with host Governments and local communities. Peacekeepers and local authorities must have adequate training and sufficient resources for that purpose. The rise in attacks on United Nations buildings and personnel in peacekeeping operations was a cause for concern. Some might be sparked by local rejection of a United Nations presence, yet that presence was often essential for effective security operations to be delivered; the protection and security of United Nations personnel must therefore be guaranteed. More attention should be paid to women's special needs in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to ensuring gender equality in peacebuilding planning. His delegation was encouraged by efforts to increase the number of women in international deployment and called for a 20 per cent participation rate to be attained in police components by 2014.

40. **Mr. Assaraf** (Israel) said that, in view of the evolving environment and new challenges facing peacekeeping, new approaches must be found. In that regard, the New Horizon process was encouraging and should be developed further. Israel had responded to the calls by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council for more countries to contribute to missions. After participating in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in 2008, it had sent a police unit to take part in MINUSTAH. In view of its performance, his delegation believed that the formed police unit model should be employed in other missions.

41. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had served as an important force for stability along the Lebanese-Israeli border, implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), to which Israel remained committed. Thanking all participants in UNIFIL, he expressed concern at violent incidents earlier in the year in which peacekeepers had been injured. According to the Secretary-General's most recent report on implementation of the resolution (S/2011/406), so-called civilians used by Hizbullah had obstructed UNIFIL's operations on numerous occasions. Hizbullah continued to build up its military forces and conceal weapons in south Lebanon. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL must do more to halt Hizbullah's rearmament in southern Lebanon and the international community must denounce its activities.

42. The presence of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the region since 1974 had helped to stabilize the Israeli-Syrian frontier while helping Druze farmers export apples to Syria. Thanking all participants in UNDOF, he expressed concern at the increasing obstruction of its movements in Syria, highlighted by the Secretary-General. Earlier in the year UNDOF had been violently attacked by demonstrators on the Syrian side of the border and property had been destroyed. The Syrian Government should be encouraged to do all it could to ensure the safety of peacekeepers.

43. **Ms. Sodov** (Mongolia) said that peacekeeping was crucial for United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security. In recent years, Mongolia's participation had grown considerably and it had contributed troops, contingent-owned equipment, military observers and staff officers to several operations. In view of the growing role of police and civilian elements, her Government had also contributed a level II medical unit to UNAMID. It had recently decided to contribute troops to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

44. While peacekeeping operations had been largely successful, there was room for improvement: more financial and logistical resources, equipment, capabilities and other means were needed, to accommodate increasing demands and the broader scope and increased complexity of missions. Mongolia

was ready to participate in triangular cooperation and was working towards making the Tavan Tolgoi Peace Operations Support Training Centre available. Mindful that personnel safety and security were an absolute priority, Mongolia would contribute a security unit to UNAMI. The protection of civilians was a moral imperative and must be assured in mission mandates. Finally, she called for further discussions on increasing reimbursement rates for troops and contingent-owned equipment.

45. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru) said that changes in the principles underpinning the United Nations approach to international peace and security in recent decades had been reflected in its peacekeeping operations, which had rapidly become multidimensional. In his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/65/680), the Secretary-General described the three roles typically performed by peacekeeping operations. Missions incorporated both security and development dimensions, through peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, including early peacebuilding.

46. Noting the progress report on the global field support strategy, his delegation believed that the Secretariat and Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries, must coordinate closely on its implementation, ensuring that missions remained effective and efficient. In view of the importance of ownership by host countries, State institutions and capacities must be strengthened to enable them to resolve conflicts. He noted that regional and international arrangements played an increasingly important role, complementing United Nations mediation and peacebuilding activities. Since peace and stability were the primary objectives of any peacekeeping operation, ongoing assessment was required, in which the Special Committee must play a leading role, along with the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Economic and Social Council; more interaction among those bodies must be promoted. In the case of MINUSTAH, whose mandate had recently been renewed and to which Peru was fully committed, everything was being done to meet the urgent reconstruction requirements of the Haitian people and Government. All missions should have the necessary logistical capacities to accomplish their mandates effectively.

47. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that peacekeeping operations were an invaluable collective security tool at the disposal of the United Nations. However, they must respect the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as set forth in the Charter. In addition, the agreement of all parties must be secured before an operation was established, there must be no use of force, and impartiality and coordination with the Government of the State in which the mission was deployed were essential. It was regrettable that there had been attempts on the part of some States to circumvent those principles.

48. Peacekeeping operations, however useful, could never be a substitute for resolution of a conflict, and it was essential to address underlying causes. A number of United Nations peacekeeping missions had been tasked with protecting civilians. But fundamental responsibility for the protection of civilians lay with national Governments, and it was essential for a peacekeeping operation not to encroach upon that responsibility; "protecting civilians" should not be used as a pretext for interfering in a State's internal affairs. Accordingly, frameworks and criteria for the protection of civilians should be defined before any peacekeeping operation was established.

49. The first United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Middle East had been the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), established in 1948 and still there, over half a century later. Unfortunately, peace was as far away as ever, owing to Israel's ongoing occupation of Arab territories, in defiance of legally binding United Nations resolutions, and its continued policies of aggression. That situation had necessitated the establishment of four very costly United Nations peacekeeping missions, both financially and in terms of human resources. Worse yet, mission personnel had on occasion been the target of threats and aggression. It was regrettable that no means of putting an end to Israel's repeated attacks on peacekeepers had yet been found.

50. The utmost respect and admiration was due to the personnel of peacekeeping forces, especially those engaged in the dangerous work of clearing land mines and cluster bombs. In particular, those who had laid down their lives in the performance of their duties were to be remembered and honoured.

51. **Mr. Nyakarundi** (Rwanda) said that his country had 3,700 peacekeepers serving in six missions. With

United Nations peacekeeping operations becoming increasingly complex and mandates expanding, his delegation supported the New Horizon process and looked forward to further improvements in operations. Mandates must be clear, feasible and include well-defined exit strategies, a goal best achieved through consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries.

52. Eighty-six peacekeepers had been killed and many more injured in 2011 and he paid tribute to them. The international community must take responsibility for the safety and security of personnel. Sufficient resources were a key requirement for successful missions but were consistently lacking. Peacekeepers must be adequately equipped, not least if they were to protect civilians; in particular, they lacked military utility helicopters. Welcoming the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, he looked forward to its proposals on timely reimbursement. For Rwanda, a pioneer in women's empowerment, more representation of women in peacekeeping would be beneficial. While commending the efforts made to date, he called for further measures to be taken.

53. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) said that primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security lay with the United Nations. As peacekeeping had evolved from ceasefire monitoring to multidimensional operations, mandates and missions had needed constant revision, while respecting the basic principles of consent of the parties to the conflict, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. Kenya was aware that regional and subregional arrangements were increasingly playing a central role in conflict resolution. The African Union, for example, was involved in resolving conflicts in Darfur, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, but needed sustained financing to enhance its capacity. Welcoming the Security Council's decision to extend the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), he urged the international community to support it with a view to its becoming a United Nations operation or a hybrid mission like UNAMID.

54. Kenya was concerned about rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, which did not reflect economic realities. Some improvements had been made but the inherent delays still had to be eliminated. While he hoped that the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment would address those challenges, he called for the creation of a mutually acceptable review mechanism to devise a lasting solution. Contributing troops was laudable, but quality was more desirable than quantity. Standardized predeployment training was needed, therefore, to help troop-contributing countries contribute troops with equal capacities; the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya would continue to cooperate with the Integrated Training Service to that end. Armed attacks on peacekeepers and restrictions on movement had hampered many operations, not least in Darfur; all-inclusive political processes and clear mandates were vital for ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers.

55. The low numbers of women in United Nations peacekeeping missions betrayed the spirit of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). As cases of gender-based violence in conflict areas were on the increase, the role of women personnel was becoming more critical. Kenya was ready to cooperate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in running a pilot course on integrating a gender perspective into the work of the military. His delegation also favoured the formulation of guidelines on delineating responsibilities for the protection of all civilians. He concluded with a tribute to the courage of all peacekeepers, in particular those who had given their lives.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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Summary record of the 16th meeting
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Chair: Ms. Miculescu ..... (Romania)

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Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) said that the demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations, which were already nearing historic levels, was likely to continue, or even increase, over the next few years. The New Horizon Progress Report No. 2 could be helpful in identifying the most urgent challenges. A first priority was the strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping capabilities, primarily through ensuring aviation mobility of operations. The shortage of military helicopters, the most critical asset for carrying out the mandates of increasingly complex missions, especially in vast theatres of operation, exemplified the mismatch between resources and mandates. In that regard, the proposals by the Secretariat should be based on the relevant recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as to the way in which military helicopters were reimbursed and operated so as to offer genuine incentives to contributors.

2. Such issues could only be resolved through global partnership and triangular cooperation between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat. To that end, troop- and police-contributing countries must be given a much stronger voice in the decision-making process at all stages of peacekeeping operations. Expert-level meetings served little purpose if such countries were absent; in other cases, those countries were faced with a fait accompli, learning about decisions directly affecting their personnel or assets from Security Council resolutions on the very day of their adoption.

3. Ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and their legal protection must be the central element of any peacekeeping operation. Legal safeguards, however, did not equal lack of accountability; Ukraine fully supported the zero tolerance policy regarding abuses by peacekeepers. Troop- and police-contributing countries must have every legal right and means to take part in the investigation of crimes committed against their peacekeepers.

4. The nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding was far from clear; there was a need to define the exact roles and responsibilities of deployed peacekeepers in peacebuilding efforts, in particular in terms of division of labour in multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support strategy for peacekeepers could provide guidance on prioritizing, sequencing and planning the critical early peacebuilding tasks that fell to peacekeepers.

5. Over the past 20 years, Ukraine had contributed over 34,000 peacekeepers to over 20 United Nations peacekeeping missions; it was resolved to maintain that commitment to United Nations peacekeeping.

6. **Mr. DeLaurentis** (United States of America) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to play an indispensable role in preventing the recurrence or escalation of armed conflicts. His delegation endorsed the need to maintain focus on the New Horizon reform agenda, to increase the participation of women, to improve the ability of the United Nations to plan and manage complex missions, and to strengthen the global partnership that underpinned the success of United Nations peacekeeping. There was a collective responsibility to ensure that the debate on how to meet the challenges faced in preventing and responding to armed conflict did not impede efforts to restore stability and establish sustainable peace.

7. The United States had trained over 140,000 peacekeeping troops since 2005 and had supported the training of an additional 41,000 peacekeepers in partner countries. It had facilitated the deployment of over 138,000 peacekeepers from 31 countries to 19 peacekeeping operations around the world. It had met its obligations under the United Nations peacekeeping budget and made a substantial additional commitment of US$ 23 million over the past two fiscal years to help enhance the operational capacity of police personnel.

8. Peacekeeping efforts had resulted in several significant accomplishments over the past year in South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There had also been progress in a number of areas that would help missions do their jobs better, faster and more cost-effectively. The new procedures for intermission cooperation would allow critical assets to be shared more quickly. The global field support strategy was already beginning to show results. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to develop additional regional service centres, drawing on the

lessons learned from the Entebbe service centre, and would continue to work with the Secretariat to ensure that each of the centres reached full operational potential. It also welcomed the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues.

9. More clarity was needed about how about how the operational resources of missions corresponded to their mandated tasks and their ability to fulfil their mandates. It was crucial to ensure that missions had the political will to carry out their mandates; force commanders must be confident that the contingents under their command could and would carry out orders. Force generation continued to be slow and cumbersome; his delegation would particularly welcome the comments of regional and subregional organizations in that regard.

10. More must be done to combat sexual misconduct on the part of all categories of peacekeeping personnel; there was still an unacceptable level of reports of sexual misconduct. The United Nations must ensure that violators were not permitted to serve again in the United Nations. Full dialogue on sexual misconduct, including dialogue with troop-contributing countries, was essential.

11. **Mr. Sorreta** (Philippines) said that, despite its limited resources, his Government had contributed thousands of men and women to at least 23 peacekeeping missions in 15 countries over the past 50 years. Its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping was grounded in its national policy to uphold multilateral peacekeeping, collective security and the rule of law. That commitment had been reinforced in 2002 with the establishment of an interagency mechanism to coordinate the Philippines' involvement in United Nations peacekeeping. His Government was currently preparing a roster of suitable and qualified experts in specialized fields of civilian peacekeeping. It was encouraging the deployment of female peacekeeping personnel and fully supported the integration of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations; 10 per cent of the nearly 900 Filipino personnel in peacekeeping operations were women.

12. His Government strongly advocated continuous training and development of peacekeepers and in June 2011 had hosted a regional training of trainers course on preventing and investigating sexual and gender based crimes in post-conflict societies. The course was designed to give United Nations police officers the knowledge and skills necessary to assist their counterparts in host countries. Ensuring the safety of peacekeepers was imperative; they must be adequately armed and equipped to protect themselves in high-risk areas. The increased demand for peacekeepers was not often matched with the necessary capabilities and resources; careful planning and execution of Security Council mandates was essential.

13. His Government appreciated opportunities to engage with other relevant actors and stakeholders in peacekeeping, especially personnel on the ground, and looked forward to more regular interaction with them. Filipino Major-General Ecarma, the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), had been active in sharing his broad experience in the field within the United Nations and with military personnel in the Philippines.

14. **Mr. Sefue** (United Republic of Tanzania) said effective peacekeeping must remain true to its guiding principles, namely consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. His Government fully supported the role of peacekeepers as early peacebuilders, a role that must remain at the centre of all peacekeeping missions through all phases. As peacekeeping operations continued to grow exponentially, it must be ensured that they remained consistent with the original purpose as set forth in the United Nations Charter, namely, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

15. It was important to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries, to ensure that peacekeeping was well resourced, and to resist classifying some countries as troop-contributing and others as troop-funding. In that regard, while the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues was welcome, a lasting resolution had to be based on unity of purpose.

16. Peacekeeping mandates must be clear; the use of ambiguous terminology, such as "robust peacekeeping", created confusion, endangering clarity of command and control in the field and leading to unwarranted recriminations. Three regional conferences on the use of force in peacekeeping operations, held in Abuja,

Buenos Aires and Jakarta, had addressed the issue of clarity; the Secretariat should circulate the reports on the outcomes of those conferences and refer them to the relevant bodies for further consideration.

17. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel must remain a top priority. Clear, realistic and achievable mandates were essential, and peacekeepers must be adequately resourced and realistically tasked to avoid operational overstretch. Critical assets, including military helicopters, needed to be provided in a sustainable manner.

18. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations needed to refine its working methods; his delegation supported the proposals by Canada and Morocco in that regard.

19. Peacekeeping must be aligned as far as possible with national and regional efforts in support of an inclusive political process and outcome. Sustainable conflict resolution and reconciliation must be anchored within the country in question, and could not be imposed on a people. Such national ownership would facilitate the timely transitioning from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

20. **Mr. Al-Hajiri** (Qatar) stressed the importance of upholding the founding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was therefore important, when adopting and implementing mandates, to take into account the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular full respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and to ensure that mandates were not diverted from their initial objective. His Government had participated in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), including by providing specialized officers and logistical support.

21. Peacekeeping operations were no substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts. It was necessary to bear in mind the importance of coordination and consultation with the host country, including confirmation of the authority and sovereignty of the State over its territory.

22. The United Nations must ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, who often worked in harsh and risky conditions. Host countries must investigate crimes committed against peacekeepers and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with their national laws, the status-of-forces agreements and the provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

23. It must be ensured that the human, financial and logistical resources available for each peacekeeping mission were compatible with their mandates and the objectives to be achieved. Shortages of resources not only undermined the chances of success of peacekeeping missions, but also put them at risk.

24. It would be advantageous for developed countries whose military personnel were highly trained, professional and experienced to contribute troops to peacekeeping operations, instead of relying exclusively on less experienced military personnel from developing countries. Peacekeeping personnel needed to be familiar with the culture and language of the host country, so as to facilitate communication and interaction with the local population. The selection of experts and civilian personnel must be characterized by transparency and clarity. The experts assigned to peacekeeping operations in Arab countries should have a knowledge of the recent history of the host countries and must speak Arabic.

25. Bearing in mind that 87 per cent of peacekeeping troops came from developing countries, it was important to involve troop-contributing countries at all stages of planning and deployment. Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) must be effectively implemented in order to strengthen coordination and communication between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, enhance transparency and trust, and take into account the concerns of host countries.

26. The Committee must cooperate with the Security Council and the Fifth and Sixth Committees in order to address shortcomings on the issue of criminal responsibility, not only that of peacekeepers but that of persons who committed crimes against them. That issue should be included in the memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and the host States. Peacekeepers must fully respect the codes of conduct and their home countries must hold them accountable if they violated codes of conduct or committed crimes punishable by law. The United Nations must fulfil its responsibilities, not only with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, but also with regard to other offences or acts of aggression and crimes, in line with recent amendments to the memorandums of understanding.

27. His delegation supported the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to develop new working methods for the Special Committee; however, it was important to follow the guidance of the Committee at all times.

28. **Mr. Cancela** (Uruguay) said that his Government was committed to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping. Only close collaboration among all stakeholders would ensure success in increasingly complex mandates. Despite the challenges faced, progress had been made in such areas as endorsement of the New Horizon process, protection of civilians, the launch of the global field support strategy, and better triangular communication between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Yet that progress could be jeopardized by the global economic crisis that had already adversely affected peacekeeping budgets, operations and even conceptual aspects of peacekeeping, since there was strong pressure to reduce costs while maintaining or even increasing services. While there was room for improvement, it was important not to lose sight of the positive cost-benefit ratio of peacekeeping operations compared with other national and regional arrangements.

29. Complex missions could not be sustainable unless the necessary resources were allocated to ensure their operation and the Organization updated its system for securing both human and material resources. At the same time, while financial issues needed to be discussed in the appropriate forums, it was not advisable, either from the point of view of the major financial contributors, or from that of countries like Uruguay which provided personnel, for the substantive discussion on peacekeeping to focus exclusively on financial resources. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the agreement reached within the Fifth Committee and had high expectations for the contribution of the Senior Advisory Group.

30. A capacity-based approach was essential for promoting a strong global partnership. The progress made by the Secretariat in the three projects it was carrying out was encouraging; his delegation reiterated the importance of ensuring consistency and working to achieve concrete improvements in unsustainable situations, such as the lack of military utility helicopters. Finally, his delegation was committed to transparency and accountability and would continue to require the highest standards of conduct of its personnel on the ground.

31. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were a vital element of the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, it was important to draw lessons from the more than 60 such operations conducted over past decades, to ensure that those conducted in the future were better designed. In that context, it should be borne in mind that peacekeeping operations were also political actions and should be more focused on conflict prevention and the mediation of disputes, thereby promoting political processes and national reconciliation.

32. He stressed the need for United Nations peacekeeping operations to adhere to the principles of neutrality, consent of the parties and the non-use of force, except in self-defence and the exercise of their mandate. Accordingly, peacekeeping operations should comply strictly with the mandate conferred upon them by the Security Council, respect the sovereignty of the parties, guard against their own members becoming involved in conflicts, desist from attempts at regime change and ensure that activities conducted ostensibly to protect civilians did not in fact cause more civilian casualties.

33. With the growth of peacekeeping operations, the need for adequate logistical support was also increasing. There was currently a disconnect between the mandate vested in such operations and the human, material and financial resources assigned to them to perform it. In that context, he stressed the need to avoid waste and duplication and conveyed his country's support for a consolidated and coordinated approach to peacekeeping efforts, through the creation of global and regional service centres and the formulation of a global logistics support strategy.

34. Peacekeeping operations were not a panacea and could not themselves solve the problems underlying conflicts: for that, a deeper political process was required, to promote genuine national reconciliation and to tackle the root causes of conflicts, in particular, their economic and social development aspects. Accordingly, the Peacebuilding Commission should be empowered to play a stronger role and the United Nations specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and regional organizations should be more actively involved in peacebuilding work. In particular, given the preponderance of United Nations peacekeeping missions on the African continent, particular assistance should be rendered to the African

Union, which was in acute need of logistical, financial and technical support to discharge its own peacekeeping mandate. In conclusion, he reaffirmed China's commitment to support for United Nations peacekeeping work, noting that, with more than 2,000 peacekeepers deployed in various operations, China was the seventh largest contributor to international peacekeeping efforts.

35. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that peacekeeping operations were the most effective means of resolving conflicts, on the basis of the principle of collective security. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had demonstrated the ability of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter, working in full cooperation with the legitimate authorities of the country and respecting the will of the people. His country was deeply grateful to the Organization for its assistance in resolving the Ivorian crisis.

36. The widespread danger faced by civilian population during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, during which 3,000 people had died, illustrated the urgent need for the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to protect civilians. The Security Council had acted on that basis in adopting resolution 1975 (2011), which entrusted UNOCI with a robust mandate to destroy the heavy weapons used by the troops of the former President to massacre the civilian population. During the crisis, the inexplicable hesitations and reservations on the part of certain members of the Security Council had helped strengthen the defiant attitude of the camp of the former Ivorian President, whose troops had continued to perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population and attacks against United Nations civilian personnel and UNOCI troops. The experience of post-electoral violence had also highlighted the lack of cooperation between UNOCI and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), even though a framework for such cooperation existed under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Had that framework been used, by involving ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), there would have been a deterrent effect which would have helped to protect the civilian population. The members of the Security Council, in particular permanent members, must bear in mind their responsibility to protect endangered civilian populations and the civilian and military personnel of peacekeeping operations and must base their decisions on respect for the wishes of the peoples. Respect for the spirit and letter of the Charter was vital to ensuring the credibility, effectiveness and impartiality of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

37. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire was returning to normal; the focus now was on peace consolidation and post-crisis reconstruction and everything was being done to ensure that the legislative elections, scheduled for 11 December 2011, would be free, transparent and credible. His Government was confident that it would be able to count on bilateral and multilateral support, above all that of the United Nations in accordance with Security Council resolution 2000 (2011). Security sector reform continued to be a priority, particularly in view of the security needs on the long western border with Liberia. His Government welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's intention to combine the resources of UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), in close cooperation with ECOWAS and other partners, to confront that threat. Summit meetings of heads of State from the region had been held, as well as a meeting of the ECOWAS military chiefs of staff.

38. Côte d'Ivoire was one of only 19 countries that was up to date in its contributions to all United Nations budgets. It had recently started providing police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and had offered permanent rent-free headquarters to UNOCI. His Government was prepared to house the regional support centre for West Africa as well.

39. **Mr. Ng** Chin Huat (Malaysia) said that as a long-standing troop-contributing country, Malaysia reiterated its firm belief in the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It shared the view that peacekeeping was a partnership, and that burden sharing was essential. It was crucial for Member States to continue to provide human, financial, and logistical resources to ensure the timely and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. Economic and social progress was possible only if peace and stability were maintained. Malaysia supported the approach to peacekeeping as a form of early peacebuilding and was undertaking activities among local populations, bearing in mind, however, that socio-economic development plans were still the sole responsibility of host countries.

40. His delegation was concerned about the increasing threats to the security and safety of United Nations peacekeepers and strongly condemned all acts of violence against them. As a troop-contributing country, Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to the policy of zero tolerance for all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuses. It would continue to emphasize the issue of misconduct in training sessions at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre and to participate actively in matters relating to doctrinal and curricular development for the United Nations police and Formed Police Units.

41. **Ms. Mørch Smith** (Norway) speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that while progress had been made in the restoration of peace in a number of countries, United Nations peacekeeping missions were facing profound challenges, starting with ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. The Nordic countries, as troop- and police- contributing countries, needed to be confident that everything was being done to strengthen field security. High risks could be tolerated, but leniency in risk management could not. Lack of security undermined the performance of peacekeepers and their capacity to implement their mandate, including the mandate to protect civilians.

42. The Nordic countries supported the ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of United Nations peacekeepers to protect civilians, notwithstanding the primary responsibility of national governments and regardless of the source of the threat. The consensus reached during the most recent session of the Special Committee provided a very good basis on which to build. The newly developed training package on protection of civilians should be fully used. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States must also ensure the effective use of operational guidance on the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict. It was deplorable that United Nations personnel continued to breach the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. The Nordic countries welcomed the initiative to develop new recommendations in that regard, while recognizing the responsibility of troop-and police-contributing countries to do their part.

43. Financial constraints made it an urgent priority to work smarter and to do more with less, building on the reform initiatives and strategies which had been developed. The Nordic countries shared the vision of a United Nations that should "deliver as one", with the integrated mission as a key concept. They welcomed the reported progress of the New Horizon pilot projects to define capability standards and develop guidance material; the projects should be followed up by the development of performance standards for all relevant peacekeeping units.

44. The Nordic countries commended the strategy on early peacebuilding for peacekeepers and urged that the World Bank and the United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes which had been involved in developing the strategy should also be included in its implementation in order to ensure that the United Nations operated on the principle of comparative advantage. The progress reported in the implementation of the global field service strategy was commendable; the implementation of the recommendations made in the report of the Senior Advisory Group for the review of international civilian capacities (in document A/65/747-S/2011/85) would increase the ability of peacekeeping missions to assist with early peacebuilding. The Nordic countries fully concurred with the strong focus in that report on the importance of building and developing national ownership, particularly in highly sensitive areas such as security sector reform and the rule of law. Regional ownership, through regional policy frameworks such as the African Union, was a valuable supplement; African perspectives on security sector reform could help in adapting tools to a particular country context and thus contribute to the legitimacy, viability and sustainability of security sector reform support. Strong partnership between the actors involved was crucial to reaching common goals.

45. The recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to three female leaders should inspire Member States to nominate more women for leadership positions in peacekeeping operations. More women were serving as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and it would be a positive development for a women to be named as a force commander and for more women to serve as police commissioners. All leaders, both women and men, were responsible for ensuring full integration of the gender perspective in all peacekeeping activities, in the first place by implementing existing plans and strategies. The Nordic countries encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue working closely with all relevant actors,

facilitated and supported by UN-Women, to pursue that agenda even further to the benefit of all.

46. **Mr. Bavaud** (Switzerland) commended the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, which had demonstrated that the United Nations was capable of reacting promptly to violence against civilians, and the establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). it was important that clear priorities should be laid down, and that UNMISS be given the financial and human resources necessary for implementing its wide-ranging mandate. It was regrettable that there continued to be disagreements among Member States, particularly between those that funded peacekeeping operations and those that contributed personnel. While the discussions held in the working group on contingent-owned equipment, the Special Committee and the Fifth Committee were important, they had the unfortunate effect of complicating the debate on other challenges. Peacekeeping must remain flexible in order to adapt to changing realities and needs on the ground; in that regard the concept of global partnership was of fundamental importance.

47. His delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the recommendations in the report of the Senior Advisory Group for the review of international civilian capacities. It hoped that the process would result in substantial improvements on the ground, including a more agile and rapid management of existing capacities within the system and among Member States. It also welcomed the initial implementation of the global field support strategy, which should result in the timely deployment of missions and improve support for civilian personnel. In that regard, it encouraged transparent exchanges of views between the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding communities.

48. The Special Committee's work on the protection of civilians could not be conducted in isolation. Coordination among all the parties involved, including humanitarian actors, was essential, and must take into account the principles of action of each party. The upcoming Security Council debate would afford delegations an opportunity to consolidate and develop the recommendations of Security Council resolution 1894 (2009).

49. His delegation attached great importance to improving the working methods of the Special Committee and welcomed the launching of an informal dialogue on the subject. Possible areas for improvement included the structure of the report, the role of the Secretariat and of the Bureau, and assistance for countries which found it difficult to participate in the proceedings. Some measures would be relatively simple to undertake, such as treating topics on a biennial basis.

50. **Mr. Kebret** (Ethiopia) said that his country had been a major troop- and police- contributing country since the 1950s, and more recently in the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA). Peacekeeping had become increasingly complex and the multidimensional challenges must be addressed comprehensively. It was critical that mandates, and any amendments to them, should be absolutely clear from the outset; they should reflect the realities on the ground, the intentions of the Security Council, and the views and capabilities of the troop- and police-contributing countries. There could be no "one size fits all" approach.

51. The triangular cooperation and consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries must be strengthened. Regular meetings between the Council members and troop- and police-contributing countries before mandate renewal would encourage meaningful discussion of operational challenges and mandate implementation on the ground and enable the Council to receive credible information from the field.

52. The need for the adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical, and human resources could not be overemphasized; there was an urgent need to address the mismatch between resources and mandates. The Organization should ensure that countries willing to contribute personnel had the necessary capacity to train and equip them and understood the administrative and logistical processes of peacekeeping operations. Direct support should be provided to troop-contributing countries and cooperation should be undertaken to increase the capabilities of regional organizations. Enhanced support for the comprehensive peacekeeping activities of the African Union was vital.

53. The United Nations must support its missions wholeheartedly, not only in words but also in deeds, and not only in terms of resources. Peacekeepers were demonstrating their commitment to safeguarding international peace and security, as well as to helping

civilian populations in hostile environments, and they should not be left in the lurch when situations became difficult. Ethiopia remained committed to further strengthening its participation in peacekeeping operations through the provision of troops, police, military observers and civilian personnel.

54. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that peacekeeping had become increasingly complex over the past two decades, as Member States sought to respond effectively to different types of conflicts, and as a result, there were ever greater constraints at both the qualitative and quantitative levels and a significant gap between ambitious goals and limited resources. In the face of those challenges, Member States needed to strengthen their capacities, improve dialogue and information-sharing, and ensure accountability at all levels. In that collective effort, responsibility must be shared, while promoting the triangular dialogue between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. The Security Council must ensure the provision of adequate human and material resources as well as a more frequent review of the mandates and resources of missions in order to respond to their changing needs and make the necessary adjustments, regardless of the complexity of a conflict or the difficulties encountered; the credibility of the United Nations was at stake.

55. Troop-contributing countries must be involved in the formulation and evaluation of mandates and should participate more actively in the process of reform of peacekeeping operations which was being conducted within the Special Committee. The role of the Special Committee, as the only forum bringing together contributing and host countries, must be enhanced, inter alia through the improvement of its working methods. His delegation hoped that the Senior Advisory Group would propose concrete measures to remedy the current situation regarding reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. The Secretariat should ensure good management, identify shortcomings and share with Member States the lessons learned from the performance evaluations of the various missions.

56. Despite the changing nature of conflicts, including the recurrent problem of non-respect for the commitments undertaken by parties, peacekeeping operations should continue to be conducted in accordance with the guiding principles, especially non-use of force except in cases of legitimate self-defence. Peacekeeping operations needed to be flexible and adaptable but that should not give rise to the excessive use of force; settlement efforts must include political negotiations and diplomatic action. The international community as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, should work to promote an evolution from a culture of reaction to one of prevention.

57. Partnerships and structured arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations were essential for the creation of a system of independent capacities capable of reacting and meeting the needs of peacekeeping operations. His delegation stressed the important role played by Africa in the process of reform of peacekeeping operations and their regionalization. The African Union was continuing its work to develop a strategic vision and military capacities so that it could take on greater responsibility for peacekeeping. However, it faced a shortage of resources and capacity while the needs were increasing. The United Nations should make good on its commitment to support African peacekeeping efforts by providing predictable, viable and flexible financing which would promote the success of African Union missions deployed on the basis of mandates from the Security Council.

58. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that peacekeeping missions must be conducted in conformity with the Charter and the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. New concepts adopted to address emerging needs emanating from the complex and multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations must be consistent with the principles, guidelines and terminology governing peacekeeping agreed upon in relevant intergovernmental negotiating processes. Due attention should be paid to consistency in the use of agreed terminology. His delegation reiterated that the General Assembly and the Special Committee were the most competent forums to discuss issues and policies related to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

59. Peacekeeping missions must be provided from the outset with political support, optimal human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies. They should not be used as a substitute for efforts to address the root causes of conflict, which should be dealt with in the appropriate social, economic and development bodies. If peacekeeping operations were to be

successful, there must be shared responsibility; communications should be established with all parties, especially troop-contributing countries, and there must be effective triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and host countries. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were interrelated and should not be perceived separately; the processes must run in tandem so as to facilitate economic revitalization, development and national capacity-building, on the basis of national ownership, and pave the way towards a seamless exit strategy; they must prevent the recurrence of armed conflict and achieve sustainable peace.

60. His Government stressed the importance of preventing peacekeeping from turning into peace enforcement. The use of force in peacekeeping operations must under no circumstances jeopardize the strategic relationship between the host country and the peacekeeping mission. The protection of civilians was the primary responsibility of the host country; where a mandate existed, a holistic approach was required encompassing the provision of timely and adequate resources, logistical support and training. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for military intervention by the United Nations; such action could result in even more civilian casualties.

61. The role of regional arrangements and agencies should conform to Chapter VIII of the Charter and should in no way replace United Nations peacekeeping operations, circumvent full application of the guiding principles on peacekeeping, or absolve the Organization of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

62. **Mr. Alia** (Benin) said that the New Horizon Initiative and the global field support strategy would make peacekeeping operations more effective and coherent. The establishment of regional support centres, including the centres in Entebbe and in West Africa, would afford greater autonomy to missions deployed in Africa and enhance their ability to react quickly in complex, evolving situations. His Government strongly supported intermission cooperation, which had made it possible to find a solution to the shortage of personnel and resources during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, and hoped that the experience would be extended to MONUSCO, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and UNMISS to offset the absence of a reserve force to react when needed.

63. Consultations must continue so that all Member States had the same understanding of the concepts of robust peacekeeping operations and protection of civilians. Benin welcomed the increase in the rates of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and hoped that the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries would also be increased; those rates should at the very least cover the expenses incurred by countries with limited resources. Peacekeeping operations must be provided with adequate human, material and financial resources. With the rapid increase in the number of operations, it was important to respect the recommendations of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) with regard to the establishment of new peacekeeping operations.

64. While his Government appreciated the efforts of non-governmental organizations which were truly working to alleviate the sufferings of civilian populations, it distanced itself from civil society organizations which, in order to obtain funding from their sponsors, made unsubstantiated and unfounded accusations against the troops which were carrying out their mandated tasks at the risk of their lives. Benin commended the careful approach followed by the Secretariat in conducting fact-finding investigations and in taking measures on the basis of zero tolerance of conduct that was incompatible with the objectives and codes of conduct of peacekeeping operations.

65. **Mr. Chipaziwa** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation firmly believed that new concepts in peacekeeping operations should be implemented only after the Special Committee had comprehensively reviewed them. It wondered why some delegations were insisting that the New Horizon Initiative should be put into effect, as that was a non-paper which had not yet been endorsed by the General Assembly. There were already guidelines for peacekeeping operations, and haste was not productive. Security sector reform had been implemented before consensus had been reached and there was still no common understanding of what it entailed; it should never be taken for granted that a State would wish to invite States or regional groups to provide assistance in that regard. The same was true of the protection of civilians; a number of missions had been given a mandate to protect civilians before a civilian protection component had been added to training programmes; yet troop- and police-contributing countries were blamed if the protection of

civilians mandate was not properly implemented. Although the concept of robust peacekeeping was still being discussed in the Special Committee, it was already being implemented. His delegation believed that the concept was creating animosity between the troops and the civilians they were supposed to be assisting. There had been no explanation as to who would be targeted by robust peacekeeping; that meant that even sitting governments could be classified as "spoilers" which needed to be dealt with.

66. The safety and security of peacekeepers was of paramount importance; his delegation urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security to consider it more fully. It was unclear whether the rise in the cases of sexual abuse and exploitation could be attributed to poor predeployment training, the length of troop assignments or other factors. He urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to facilitate travel for troops to see their families while on leave and suggested that all leave should be taken in capital cities.

67. His delegation believed that all the problems faced in peacekeeping operations could be minimized with effective triangular cooperation, at all stages. Peacekeeping operations could not succeed unless tasks were matched with resources and capability and implementers were involved in planning and the formulation of mandates. His delegation welcomed the initiative to increase the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries; increased rates would boost the morale of troop- and police-contributing countries, in particular those of the Non-Aligned Movement which contributed the bulk of the personnel on the ground.

68. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that mediation and peacekeeping operations had contributed to a sharp decline in the number of armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War, United Nations peacekeeping operations were more cost-effective and successful than other operations and the opportunity cost was immeasurable in terms of financial and other resources. The future success of peacekeeping operations, which had become increasingly complex and multidimensional, would depend on political support and on adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical, and human resources. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues.

69. In order to ensure effective partnership and create ownership among all stakeholders, there must be broader political partnership between the United Nations and the host Government through dialogue and consensus. There must be effective and inclusive consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries; the views of troop-contributing countries must be taken into account when formulating or changing mandates and establishing timelines. There was a need for fair representation of troop-contributing countries in the decision-making process within the Secretariat and in the process of implementation of those decisions. The mandates of the peacekeepers must be clear, specific and well-defined, and supported by adequate resources to ensure safety and security as well as training. At the operational level, partnership should include adequate working conditions for peacekeepers, coordination among relevant stakeholders and between the United Nations and bilateral and regional stakeholders, and concerted efforts among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

70. Bangladesh had made significant contributions to international peace and security. Since 1988, it had been involved in 36 United Nations peacekeeping operations in 52 countries and had the most troops in the field. Though over 100 of its peacekeepers had lost their lives in the line of duty, their sacrifice had not been in vain and Bangladesh was committed to continuing its partnership with the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

71. **Mr. Kafeero** (Uganda) commended the New Horizon Initiative, which had afforded an opportunity to take a more concerted and comprehensive approach at all levels, and welcomed the global field support strategy, in particular the new global and regional approach.

72. It was important to recognize that an ineffective United Nations peacekeeping capability anywhere adversely affected the image of the Organization. The current mismatch between mandates and resources must be addressed, in particular in respect of air assets. In order for missions to be successful, the root causes of conflicts needed to identified and addressed at the planning stage; that required a clear understanding of the situation on the ground. Peacekeeping efforts

should support a political resolution of conflicts, respect the sovereignty of States, remain impartial and work with all parties to overcome their problems. More concerted efforts were needed to involve women in peacekeeping and peacemaking.

73. The triangular relationship between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was crucial to ensure that political objectives and mandates were clear, credible and achievable. Cooperation among all stakeholders in peacekeeping operations must be strengthened. It was also important to work with regional and subregional organizations including the African Union, ECOWAS, the Southern African Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development. Relationships with such organizations must be consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter. His Government welcomed the support given to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and underscored the importance and urgency of providing predictable, reliable and timely resources to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate.

74. The early inclusion of peacebuilding activities, especially socio-economic reconstruction, in peacekeeping operations was vital for durable recovery and success. His delegation called on the Organization to ensure greater coherence in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development activities.

75. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the lies and false allegations of the representative of the Israeli occupying Power at the previous meeting had been nothing but an attempt to conceal the fact that Israel's occupation of Arab territories had been the cause of four United Nations peacekeeping missions, including the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and an attempt to divert attention from Israel's State terrorism. Israel had repeatedly attacked both defenceless civilians and United Nations peacekeepers. To mention only a few examples, there had been the killing of peaceful demonstrators on 5 May and 5 June 1911, the deliberate attack on a compound of Fijian forces belonging to UNIFIL in 1996, which had killed 106 civilians, and the deliberate bombing of a truce monitoring post in southern Lebanon in July 2006. All those attacks were well documented and had been mentioned in United Nations reports. In addition, in September 2008 a Belgian officer had been killed while clearing unexploded cluster munitions left behind after the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006. It was worth noting that Israel had consistently refused to hand over its maps showing the locations of those munitions, thereby ensuring that there would be further innocent victims among civilians and peacekeepers.

76. The Syrian Arab Republic, for its part, enjoyed excellent relations with UNTSO and UNDOF, cooperating with them positively and constructively, as had been confirmed by various United Nations reports over the years and had also been acknowledged by senior UNTSO and UNDOF personnel.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

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Chair: Ms. Miculescu ..... (Romania)

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Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Htut** (Myanmar) said that the increase in the number of peacekeeping operations showed that the United Nations must do more to uphold international peace and security, its fundamental purpose. He commended the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on its important work, and welcomed the contributions of regional organizations. Nevertheless, respect for the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of all States and non-interference in domestic affairs must be upheld. It was also important to maintain the policy of zero tolerance for all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

2. The policy framework of the peacebuilding architecture — the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund — should be harmonized in order to meet the new strategic challenges facing the international community. His delegation was concerned at the high level of outstanding contributions in respect of peacekeeping operations, which should be paid on time and without conditions. His Government was fully committed to its obligations in that regard.

3. **Mr. Zhukov** (Russian Federation) said that United Nations peacekeeping was constantly evolving at both the conceptual and the operational levels and was incorporating ever broader goals, including protection of civilians. The effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates required a more flexible and efficient use of peacekeeping and peacebuilding instruments and effective cooperation between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

4. Serious political and technical problems persisted in planning and carrying out peacekeeping operations. A new phenomenon — non-consent of the host country to the extension of peacekeeping operations and demands for changes in their mandates and configurations — gave cause for concern. That situation could not always be explained by the complexities of dialogue with Governments; unfortunately, complaints made to peacekeeping missions, including with regard to non-respect for neutrality and impartiality, often turned out to be well founded.

5. However complicated the relations with the host country, the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, the supremacy of international law and observance of the basic norms of peacekeeping must remain inviolable. Recently, the Security Council had sought to meet the wishes of a number of host countries and either cut short the stay of peacekeeping contingents, as in the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti, or completely end it, as in the case of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). At the same time, it was inadmissible for peacekeepers to be drawn into internal political conflicts or to provide tacit support to one of the participants in a conflict, as had been demonstrated by the experience in Côte d'Ivoire. Such actions not only undermined the authority of the United Nations but also posed a threat to the security of the peacekeepers themselves.

6. It should be clearly understood that resort to Chapter VII of the Charter could not be regarded as a guarantee of the launching of a peace process and the achievement of a political settlement. Moreover, external military intervention carried out on the pretext of protection of the population in order to serve the political interests of individual States resulted in even greater civilian losses; that had been the case in Libya, where the possibilities for a ceasefire and the launching of dialogue among the opposing sides had not been exhausted. A full-scale military operation could not be regarded as a substitute for more complex, long-term but peaceful diplomatic efforts. Precisely for that reason, his delegation believed that while the goals of protecting the civilian population and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance were important, essential peacekeeping functions such as establishing and maintaining peace, promoting a political process and ensuring security must take first place.

7. When sending peacekeepers to conflict zones, the international community must accord priority to ensuring their security. Unfortunately, irreparable losses had been incurred yet again in 2011; such incidents must be carefully investigated, and the culprits must be prosecuted under the law.

8. The Russian Federation's initiative to enhance the level of military expertise of the Security Council and

step up the work of its Military Staff Committee would enhance the Security Council's role of formulating clear mandates, particularly in relation to the use of force, and ensuring strict monitoring of their implementation; it would allow a systematic analysis of the military and political situation in problem regions of the world.

9. The formulation of strategies for the deployment of peacekeeping operations remained crucial, especially given the complexities of the global financial crisis. His delegation believed that the planning of exit strategies must be transparent, and that the main criterion should continue to be the achievement of firm foundations for a political settlement. There could be no room for double standards, whereby in some cases missions were wound down or reconfigured without having fulfilled all the goals of their mandates, while in others, missions continued to operate and switched their focus almost entirely to peacebuilding.

10. The Security Council should act pre-emptively and invest in the development of mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with the increasing attention being paid to the possibilities of more effective use of Chapter VI of the Charter and the enhancement of mechanisms for preventive diplomacy, mediation and the good offices of the Secretary-General. More effective use should also be made of the resources of regional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. The experience gained in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, the Sudan and elsewhere had demonstrated the potential of regional instruments in conflict prevention and the search for political solutions. The African Union had intensified its peacekeeping and mediation potential. The Afghan settlement illustrated the opportunities for the development of partnerships between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which were gradually increasing their political authority and their contribution to the strengthening of regional and international security; CSTO, which had developed its peacekeeping capacity, was interested in establishing practical cooperation with the United Nations.

11. At the same time, it was important to work on preventing the root causes of conflicts, ensuring long-term political stability and socio-economic development, investing in institution-building, and promoting national capacity-building in the areas of security, justice and governance. In that regard, maximum use should be made of the potential of the Peacebuilding Commission, the specialized structures of the United Nations system, and regional organizations.

12. It was unfortunate that there were also problems in the areas of personnel and resource support and that deficits in military technology and in air transport capacity were still an acute problem for peacekeeping missions. It was the responsibility of the Secretariat to improve the integrated planning of operations and ensure coordination between Headquarters and the field; his delegation supported the initiatives designed to enhance the effectiveness of command and control of peacekeeping operations.

13. Russian military and police personnel were participating in peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, in various African countries and in Haiti. His Government attached great importance to the quality of training provided to peacekeeping personnel and was conducting training for civilian police personnel from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia and Africa. It intended to continue to provide air support for United Nations efforts.

14. The success of United Nations peacekeeping operations depended on adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, with strict observance of the prerogatives of the Security Council, and on the willingness of the international community to invest its know-how, resources and personnel and formulate integrated strategies to prevent the root causes of conflicts and ensure long-term political stability and socio-economic development.

15. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan) said that the mandates of peacekeeping operations had become more complex, and were being conducted in historically challenging circumstances. Nevertheless, the global financial crisis necessitated greater effectiveness and efficiency, a matter of great interest to all Member States, irrespective of their rate of contribution. More must be done with less.

16. In line with the view that States should contribute in the manner best suited to their circumstances, his Government, the second largest financial contributor and an active troop contributor, was studying the possibility of dispatching an engineering unit to the newly established United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Fourth Committee had a mandate to conduct substantive discussions from both

the political and the practical perspective, taking into account the fundamental principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of the global financial situation and recent developments in various parts of the world. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should be the primary body for consideration of the experience and inputs of each Member State, in which regard he supported the proposal to improve its working methods.

17. Four points in particular should be given priority attention in peacekeeping operations. Firstly, the concept of triangular cooperation should be further promoted. Active collaboration on the part of all parties concerned was essential. Secondly, the concept of peacekeeping as an early form of peacebuilding had yet to be fully elaborated. The Committee should continue its work in that regard. Japan was committed to participating in further discussions on when and under what conditions peacekeeping operations might lead to a transition to the development phase. Thirdly, Japan expected the Secretariat to proceed further with its reform programme based on the New Horizon initiative. In the current time of difficulty, the success of peacekeeping operations depended on more efficient and effective support by the Secretariat. Consideration should be given to ways to improve the United Nations logistics framework so that more Member States would be able to contribute to peacekeeping operations. Lastly, Japan was pleased to note that the practice of holding meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries with sufficient advance notice prior to the adoption of resolutions had been maintained, as it contributed to the transparency of the Security Council's decision-making process and to the formulation of clear and achievable peacekeeping mandates.

18. **Mr. Tarawneh** (Jordan) said that in response to the increased complexity of threats to peace and stability, the mandates of peacekeeping operations had become more complicated and difficult to implement, and now embraced conflict prevention, peacebuilding and democratization, and even sustainable development. It was thus appropriate to refer back to the Brahimi report, drafted by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), and the lessons learned during a challenging period in United Nations peacekeeping history. One of the key requirements identified in that report was the need for clear, achievable mandates with resources to match, rather than seeking to do more with less, a trend that could open up a gap between capabilities and mandate completion.

19. Stressing the importance of safety for both civilians and peacekeepers, he noted that the precarious security environment prevailing in host States was one of the main reasons for the increased demands on peacekeepers, in terms of both quantity and quality. Primary responsibility for the security of peacekeepers lay with the host Government. A more effective consultation process in the form of triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries was essential.

20. There was a need for continued improvement in the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, and for closer cooperation between stakeholders, in which regard the base of troop-contributing countries should be enlarged to include more developed States. Lastly, his delegation would spare no effort to enhance the Special Committee's working methods.

21. **Mr. Nayasi** (Fiji) said that the discharge of multidimensional mandates in today's complex operational environment presented challenges and required more resources. There was a need for a clear and comprehensive strategy for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The ongoing work on the New Horizon initiative and the Global Field Support Strategy had enabled substantive dialogue on the direction being taken by United Nations peacekeeping operations. Mandates should be based on thorough and timely assessment and sound intelligence and must provide for adequate resources, in which regard he welcomed the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. His delegation was encouraged by the work being undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to develop an early peacebuilding strategy for peacekeepers. Missions needed clear guidelines if they were to become more effective tools in the pursuit of long-term stability and economic recovery. There must be clear links and channels of command between officers in the field and military and police advisers and decision makers in New York. Peacekeeping operations must accord with the purposes and principles of the Charter, and should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict or

entail intervention in matters pertaining to the sovereignty of Member States.

22. **Mr. Mashabane** (Republic of South Africa) said that his Government strongly condemned the killing of peacekeepers, 86 of whom had died over the previous year. Bearing in mind the complex nature of current conflicts, there was a need for clearly defined and achievable mandates that also incorporated clear exit strategies. Peacekeeping, however, was not a panacea, and must be an integral part of a broader political solution to the underlying causes of a conflict. In accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, his Government supported conflict prevention and management, mediation and peacebuilding. The Security Council must place emphasis on making full use of political processes, including those initiated by regional organizations. In peacekeeping, the principles of consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality must be sincerely adhered to. United Nations peacekeeping must not be politicized or misused in any manner.

23. Triangular cooperation between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat had been strengthened, but much remained to be done. The Special Committee played a critical role in providing the crucial oversight required. Creating new frontiers rather than fixing old problems such as capability gaps and resourcing issues merely postponed addressing those problems to a later date. Resources must keep pace with the added demands on peacekeeping; multidimensional mandates required multidimensional resources. The essence of partnership when addressing conceptual and doctrinal issues was to work in a transparent and coherent manner in an environment that fostered confidence and mutual respect. Bearing in mind the lessons learned from the most recent session of the Special Committee, particular attention must be given to improving its working methods. Partnership did not stop with the policy arena, but extended to the field. Burden-sharing remained integral to making peacekeeping a true partnership endeavour. The general membership of the United Nations, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, should contribute generously to all peacekeeping operations, both in personnel and in equipment.

24. He was encouraged by the fact that the issue of troop costs was being addressed in a systemic manner and looked forward to the early commencement of the work of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors. The issue of flexible, predictable and sustainable resources for peacekeeping operations, especially as it related to the African continent, was critical. The African Union continued to play a leading role in conflict prevention, management and resolution, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. The United Nations should ensure that African Union missions that were authorized by the Security Council, including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), were provided with sufficient enablers and capabilities to carry out their mandates. AMISOM should be rehatted to a fully fledged United Nations peacekeeping mission. He was encouraged by the fact that the Secretary-General had recently acknowledged the African contribution to peacekeeping and reaffirmed the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for in Chapter VIII. In that context, the African Union had taken decisive steps in deploying peacekeeping missions, as well as hybrid missions. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding could play an important role in creating an enabling environment and laying the foundations for sustainable peace, the rule of law and good governance.

25. Gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions ensured that women's concerns and experiences were at the forefront of the policy aspects of peacekeeping operations. He commended the work done so far by the Secretary-General to ensure that the numbers of women in leadership positions were increased. His delegation welcomed the strategic role that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women would play in facilitating the integration of a gender perspective in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. His Government was also fully supportive of the zero-tolerance approach to the disturbing incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse and was committed to cooperating with the United Nations to eradicate such conduct.

26. **Mr. Jaber** (Lebanon) said that successful peacekeeping required partnership, in particular the involvement of troop- and police-contributing countries at the planning and deployment stages. Peacekeeping was not an alternative to an inclusive political process, but rather, provided space for such processes. Resolution of conflicts by tackling the root causes remained the objective.

27. Respect for the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers was not only critical for the implementation of their mandates, but also a measure of the primacy of international law and respect for Security Council resolutions. The success of peacekeeping operations depended on the development of clear and achievable mandates matched with the required resources and timely logistical support, adherence to the general principles of peacekeeping, a strong link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and strengthening of the role of regional and subregional organizations, specifically the African Union, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

28. Peacekeeping remained the most cost-effective means of avoiding conflict. The task now was to make it more efficient, and adapt it to intrastate, rather than inter-State, conflict. Although it was certainly desirable to do more with less, that should not be accomplished by stretching troops thin to cover geographic areas that exceeded their capacities or at the expense of their ability to operate in challenging environments. To achieve that goal and to ensure the creation of a more predictable, professional and accountable peacekeeping system, it was important to emphasize the key role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in policy formulation and development. Regular coordination of peacebuilding tasks with the Peacebuilding Commission should be enhanced, stressing national ownership and prioritization of peacebuilding needs. The base of troop contributors should be expanded.

29. It was time to draw on lessons learned in order to improve the critical early peacebuilding tasks undertaken by peacekeepers. The focus should not only be on police, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, but also on economic revival and sustainable development. It was now clear that peacekeeping and peacebuilding were not sequential; it was also clear that transition should be based on benchmarking against indicators in all fields.

30. To close the critical gaps in capability development, a comprehensive capability-driven approach that addressed uniform capability requirements, including force enablers such as air assets, was needed. With regard to global field support, he was glad that the Secretariat had moved from a mission-centric to a global management approach.

31. **Mr. Pintado** (Mexico) said that peacekeeping was central to the maintenance of international peace and security by the United Nations, and required firm commitment on the part of Member States. The creation and deployment of peacekeeping operations must be based on clear, credible and achievable mandates matched with the necessary resources; clear objectives with well-defined time limits, as well as benchmarks and transition and exit strategies; an integrated approach that included early peacebuilding in peacekeeping mandates, as well as an emphasis on national ownership and national capacity development; the commitment of all parties to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict; and a public information strategy to ensure that the parties to the conflict and the population at large understood the objectives of the peacekeeping operation and perceived that they had ownership of the operation and the mandate.

32. Protection of civilians, including the most vulnerable sectors of the population, was a priority consideration in all peacekeeping operations. A strategic framework should be designed that would provide for civilian protection, training modules should be developed, and requirements for resources and capacities should be identified. The recommendations to the Department of Field Support contained in the report of the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity were very useful. His delegation noted that progress had been made in some areas, such as in the deployment of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and it supported the continuation of such deployments. Mexico also supported the establishment of strategic partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union. Local capacities in conflict prevention and resolution should also be promoted. Peacekeeping operations should have a clear strategy for using resources more efficiently. His delegation hoped that the Senior Advisory Group that would be reviewing reimbursement rates to troop contributors would strengthen the commitment of Member States to that important activity and would ensure the medium- and long-term financial sustainability of peacekeeping operations. All regions should be adequately represented on the Advisory Group.

33. **Ms. Lalama** (Ecuador) said that peacekeeping operations must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the principles of consent

of the parties, impartiality and the use of force only in self-defence or in defence of the mandate. The safety of peacekeeping personnel and protection of civilians must be paramount. She noted with regret that there were still some members of peacekeeping operations who did not comply with the zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation; however, she was encouraged to note the progress achieved through preventive measures such as predeployment training for troops. She commended the United Nations for following up on all complaints and providing assistance and support to victims.

34. Ecuador welcomed the positive developments with regard to reimbursements to troop-contributing countries; however, there was still room for improvement. In that regard, General Assembly resolution 63/285, on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, should be reviewed periodically. The failure to update troop costs could jeopardize the participation of troop-contributing countries in peacekeeping operations. Her delegation hoped that the supplemental payment to troop-contributing countries for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and the appointment of the Senior Advisory Group pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/289 would encourage Member States to renew their commitment to peacekeeping operations. She welcomed the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and the appointment of gender advisers in several missions. The working methods of the Special Committee must be improved.

35. **Mr. Somdah** (Burkina Faso) stressed the importance of civilian protection, support for political peace processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security-sector reform. The principles of the non-use of force except for self-defence, respect for sovereignty, political independence and the territorial integrity of Member States, consent of the parties and neutrality of the United Nations should guide all interventions.

36. The main objective of peacekeeping operations was to support political peace processes; therefore, they should not be seen as alternatives to the peace process. Member States must make every effort to achieve consensus and to promote cooperation among all stakeholders in peacekeeping operations, including mediators, special representatives and chiefs of missions. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations depended on the establishment of clear, achievable and realistic mandates, good overall organization, effective logistical support and adequate training of personnel. Triangular cooperation and regular meetings between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council were essential. The partnership between the United Nations and regional actors, including regional and subregional organizations, under regional peacekeeping and international security arrangements, should be strengthened. The African Union, in particular, had demonstrated its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, and its institutional and operational capacities in the area of peacekeeping should be strengthened.

37. Peacekeeping mandates should assign high priority to civilian protection, while bearing in mind that primary responsibility for protection of civilians lay with host States. The safety of peacekeepers should continue to be a central concern in all operations. Peacekeeping operations should contribute to peacebuilding so as to guarantee a smooth transition towards development and stability. His delegation welcomed the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee (A/65/19).

38. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) paid tribute to peacekeepers killed in the line of duty. The safety and security of peacekeepers was an issue of paramount importance for all Member States. Peacekeeping mandates must be realistic and achievable, and adequate and timely resources must be provided to ensure their implementation. Efficient entry and exit strategies were also essential for seamless transition from conflict situations to post-conflict stability, peacebuilding and long-term political and economic recovery. The first step in addressing such a broad array of challenges was to strengthen triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Open consultations and coherence were imperative, especially in situations arising out of a sudden change in the political situation. Such transparency had regrettably been lacking during rewriting of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) or shifting of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) to the Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). More open channels of communication between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries could have improved the administrative and logistical arrangements for the critical drawdown and the inter-mission transfer carried out in UNMIS and UNOCI. Triangular partnership

could also be facilitated by increased representation of troop-contributing countries in operational as well as managerial positions, both in the field and at United Nations Headquarters.

39. Provision of adequate resources to implement complex mandates was also mandatory for the success of peacekeeping operations. Timely allocation of resources would increase effectiveness without impacting cost. Timely deployment of aviation assets had also become increasingly important; contract modalities of aviation assets should be streamlined by the Secretariat. Troop cost was another important issue, and he hoped that the Senior Advisory Group being constituted would complete its deliberations in time for consideration of the issue by the Fifth Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

40. Given the increasing complexity of peacekeeping operations, mandates now covered support to political processes, building of local security institutions and protection of civilians, all with a view to long-term peacebuilding and economic recovery. Nevertheless, peacekeeping could neither be a substitute for a viable political process nor bypass the need to address the root causes of conflicts. Peacekeeping must be distinguished from traditional law enforcement. Given that protection of civilians was a primary responsibility of the host Government, peacekeeping missions must work with local Governments. Capacity-building of formed police units was therefore especially important.

41. With regard to the Global Field Support Strategy, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe; however, support for the addition of more centres at the global and regional levels was not unanimous, as there was growing apprehension about the decentralization of policy formulation and fragmentation in decision-making. The idea of global and regional centres was self-contradictory.

42. The entire membership of the United Nations supported the objectives of reform, rationalization and strengthening of the Organization's peacekeeping capacity. From the Brahimi report to the reform proposals presented by the Secretariat in the New Horizon initiative, Pakistan had emphasized the need to maintain continuity in all reform initiatives.

43. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that peacekeeping operations must be based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs, consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except for self-defence. The Special Committee had an especially important role to play, as it was the only body entrusted with considering the broader issues relating to the Organization's increasingly complex peacekeeping operations. The General Assembly had primary responsibility for the formulation of concepts and policies pertaining to peacekeeping. Any guideline or doctrinal document prepared by the Secretariat that would have a bearing on Member States' participation in peacekeeping operations should be subject to intergovernmental approval. The interaction between host countries, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council must be strengthened. In most cases, host countries and troop-contributing countries were not guaranteed active participation at all stages of decision-making.

44. Protection of civilians was primarily the responsibility of the host State. United Nations peacekeeping missions should have clear and achievable mandates, as well as the necessary logistical and financial resources. Peacekeeping missions needed to take into account the economic and social context of the countries in which they were deployed. The establishment of new and more complex peacekeeping operations could not be a substitute for efforts to resolve the root causes of conflicts. Peacekeeping operations were not an end but a temporary measure to create a secure environment in which a long-term strategy for sustainable economic and social development could be applied. Early peacebuilding efforts were a fundamental tool, and all peacebuilding strategies should be planned in a consistent and integrated manner. The Peacebuilding Commission should play a central role throughout the process of establishing priorities and implementing such activities.

45. Cuba recognized the value of regional peacekeeping arrangements; however, such arrangements must be consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter and should not replace the role of the United Nations or disregard the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

46. **Mr. Nwosa** (Nigeria) said that efforts to reinvigorate peacekeeping tools must of necessity rely on the global partnership of the Security Council, the General Assembly, countries that contributed troops, police and finance, and regional organizations. His

delegation welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations; a strong African Union peace and security architecture meant a more secure political space for other, United Nations, actions. It was imperative to have a systemic view of mandates whereby different mission components were linked in pursuit of mission-wide objectives that matched means to mandates and resources to capabilities. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding needed to interface so as to tackle the root causes of conflicts. Nevertheless, peacekeeping was not a substitute for genuine political engagement, which was the only foundation for sustainable peace. The operational success of a mandate depended on coherence and coordination, strategic planning, the clarity and flexibility of the mandate and how realistic the mandate was. All that in turn depended on the level of inclusiveness and broad-based participation from the mandate-setting to the planning stage. His delegation called for a mandate formulation process involving the Security Council, the most important and experienced troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and military experts. His delegation welcomed recommendations that would facilitate the working methods of the Special Committee.

47. **Ms. Al Rifai** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross) said that as the duties and responsibilities of peace operations had expanded, so the expectations of the populations of host States had increased. That new complexity showed the importance of a coherent approach by the international community.

48. Interaction between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had grown considerably, both at the headquarters level and in the field, in particular with regard to operational issues related to assistance, protection and international humanitarian law. Actions undertaken by United Nations peacekeepers in accordance with their mandate to protect civilians, particularly measures aimed at inducing the parties to an armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law, could play an essential role in improving the fate of civilian populations affected by armed conflict. Respect for and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law must therefore be a key element in the implementation of civilian-protection mandates by United Nations peacekeeping missions.

49. The International Committee of the Red Cross had followed with interest the recent efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to clarify the concept of protection of civilians and its implementation by peacekeeping missions. A risk inherent in integrated missions was the blurring of roles and responsibilities. Clarifying the different roles of the components of a mission would enable the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in close cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries, to ensure that resources and training were sufficient to meet the demands of the increasingly complex tasks of peacekeeping. Informing the host country and the population exactly what could be expected from peacekeepers was essential and would improve understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various humanitarian organizations, such as ICRC, and of the peacekeeping mission itself.

50. In the area of protection work, for example, ICRC valued the establishment of a confidential dialogue with all those involved in armed violence in order to ensure that they respected their obligations under international humanitarian law. In parallel, ICRC also worked directly with the communities affected so as to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to risks. While maintaining its neutral and independent approach, ICRC was committed to continuing its constructive dialogue with peacekeeping missions on the ground. Wherever possible, ICRC would continue to cooperate closely on specific projects, such as mine action or disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for child soldiers. It would also continue to address issues related to the applicability of and respect for international humanitarian law by peacekeepers. In New York, ICRC was committed to maintaining the highly constructive dialogue it had developed over the past few years with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States that were active stakeholders in peacekeeping operations and policy.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.